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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2177**

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 11, 2023

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-204.3, relating to establishment of the Critical National Security Language Grant Fund and Program.*

Patrons—Sickles, Convors-Fowler, Shin, Subramanyam and Tran

Referred to Committee on Education

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-204.3 as follows:**

**§ 22.1-204.3. Critical National Security Language Grant Fund and Program established.**

A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Critical National Security Language Grant Fund, referred to in this section as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All gifts, grants, and donations from public or private sources shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of awarding grants on a competitive basis through the Critical National Security Language Grant Program established pursuant to subsection B. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

B. The Critical National Security Language Grant Program (the Program) is established within the Department for the purpose of awarding grants from the Fund on a competitive basis to any school division that provides one or more foreign language courses in a foreign language that is currently identified as critical by the National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarship program (critical foreign language course) as set forth in subsection C.

C. Grants made by the Department to a local school division pursuant to the Program are limited to an annual amount sufficient to provide one or more full-time equivalent teaching positions to provide one or more critical foreign language courses. The Department shall establish such rules, policies, procedures, and processes as it deems necessary or appropriate for the administration of the Program, including a grant prioritization policy that takes into consideration such factors as teacher experience and qualifications, student interest, critical foreign language course size and student to teacher ratios, and the number of critical foreign language courses to be taught as set forth in the grant application.

**2. That the Department of Education shall maintain and periodically update a list of foreign languages that are currently identified as critical by the National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarship program for the purposes of the Critical National Security Language Grant Program, as created by this act.**

INTRODUCED

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