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SENATE BILL NO. 1077

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 9, 2023

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 23.1-2802 of the Code of Virginia; to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 23.1 a chapter numbered 21.1, consisting of sections numbered 23.1-2105 through 23.1-2109; and to repeal § 23.1-2806 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Richard Bland College; governance.*

Patrons—Ruff, Norment, Locke and Mason; Delegates: Brewer and Wachsmann

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 23.1-2802 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 23.1 a chapter numbered 21.1, consisting of sections numbered 23.1-2105 through 23.1-2109, as follows:

CHAPTER 21.1.

RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE.

§ 23.1-2105. Corporate name; name of the College.

A. The board of visitors of Richard Bland College (the board) is a corporation under the name and style of "The Rector and Visitors of Richard Bland College" and has, in addition to its other powers, all the corporate powers given to corporations by the provisions of Title 13.1 except those powers that are confined to corporations created pursuant to Title 13.1. The board shall at all times be under the control of the General Assembly.

B. The institution shall be known as Richard Bland College (the College).

§ 23.1-2106. Membership.

The board shall consist of 12 members appointed by the Governor.

§ 23.1-2107. Meetings; officers; committees.

A. The board shall meet at the College at least once a year and at such other times as it determines. Special meetings of the board may be called by the rector or any three members. The secretary shall provide notice of any special meeting to each member.

B. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

C. At the first meeting after July 1 in every even-numbered year, the board shall elect from its membership a rector to preside at its meetings, a vice-rector to preside at its meetings in the absence of the rector, and a secretary to preside at its meetings in the absence of the rector and vice-rector.

D. The board may appoint a pro tempore officer to preside at its meetings in the absence of the rector, vice-rector, and secretary.

E. Vacancies in the offices of rector, vice-rector, and secretary may be filled by the board for the unexpired term.

F. At every regular annual meeting of the board, the board may appoint an executive committee for the transaction of business in the recess of the board, to serve for a period of one year or until the next regular annual meeting.

§ 23.1-2108. Powers and duties.

A. The board shall appoint all teachers and fix their salaries, provide for the employment of other personnel as required, and generally direct the affairs of the College.

B. The board may confer degrees and, subject to the provisions of § 23.1-203, approve new academic programs and discontinue academic programs offered by the College.

C. All property, property rights, duties, contracts, and agreements of the College are vested in the board. The board shall care for and preserve all property belonging to the College.

D. The board shall (i) make regulations and policies concerning the College; (ii) manage the funds of the College and approve an annual budget; (iii) appoint the chief executive officer of the College; and (iv) fix the rates charged to students for tuition, mandatory fees, and other necessary charges.

§ 23.1-2109. Courses of study.

The board shall focus its efforts on preparing students for academic and career success. Its students may include dual enrollment students, associate-degree-seeking students, and students seeking job-relevant skills or credentials.

In furtherance of such efforts, the board may:

1. Broker agreements between and among educational, industry, and nonprofit partners and establish collaborative, innovative partnership agreements with local school divisions, public and private

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59 *institutions of higher education, economic development agencies, employers, philanthropic organizations,*
60 *veterans organizations, public agencies, and other partners as necessary to strengthen and streamline*
61 *educational pathways from high school to work-based learning and from high school and work-based*
62 *learning to baccalaureate and advanced degrees that prepare individuals, including nontraditional*
63 *students such as veterans and military personnel, for entry into careers in Science, Technology,*
64 *Engineering, Mathematics, and Health Care (STEM-H) and other high-demand fields in the*
65 *Commonwealth;*

66 2. *Pilot and implement innovative educational approaches and technologies and promote the*
67 *development, delivery, and ongoing assessment of innovative, cost-effective degree programs and*
68 *stackable credentials, including industry-recognized, competency-based credentials that are aligned with*
69 *and responsive to the educational and workforce development needs of traditional and nontraditional*
70 *students, including veterans and military personnel, and that advance the economic development needs*
71 *of employers and industries throughout the Commonwealth; and*

72 3. *Identify and implement new strategies to support economic and community development in the*
73 *Commonwealth and to expand opportunities for traditional and nontraditional students, including*
74 *veterans and military personnel, to prepare for careers in high-demand fields.*

75 **§ 23.1-2802. Powers and duties.**

76 A. The board shall generally direct the affairs of the university and Richard Bland College.

77 B. The board may confer degrees.

78 2. That § 23.1-2806 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.

79 3. That notwithstanding the provisions of § 23.1-1300 of the Code of Virginia, the Governor's
80 initial appointments of members to the board of visitors of Richard Bland College in accordance
81 with the provisions of § 23.1-2106 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, shall be
82 staggered as follows: five members for a term of four years, four members for a term of three
83 years, and three members for a term of two years. After the initial staggering of terms, members
84 shall be appointed by the Governor for terms of four years in accordance with the provisions of
85 § 23.1-1300 of the Code of Virginia.

86 4. That any contracts entered into by the board of visitors of The College of William and Mary in
87 Virginia on behalf of or related to Richard Bland College shall continue in effect as though they
88 were agreed to by the board of visitors of Richard Bland College.

89 5. That all real and tangible personal property, property rights, duties, contracts, and agreements
90 of Richard Bland College vested in the board of visitors of The College William and Mary shall
91 be, as of the effective date of this act, transferred to and taken as standing in the name of the
92 board of visitors of Richard Bland College.

93 6. That the president of Richard Bland College shall submit a report on the institution's progress
94 in exploring and adopting an innovative model for higher education, as permitted pursuant to
95 § 23.1-2109 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, to the Chairmen of the House
96 Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on
97 Education and Health, and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations no later than
98 July 1 of each year.