

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-211.1, relating to public*
3 *schools; certain local school divisions; youth and community violence prevention; Community*
4 *Builders Pilot Program established; report.*

5 [H 626]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**8 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-211.1 as follows:**9 **§ 22.1-211.1. Community Builders Pilot Program established; report.**

10 *A. The Community Builders Pilot Program (the Program) is established for the purpose of reducing*
11 *youth involvement in behaviors that lead to gun violence and increasing community engagement among*
12 *public school students by providing students enrolled in Roanoke City Public Schools and Petersburg*
13 *City Public Schools opportunities during the school year after regular school hours and during the*
14 *summer months for community engagement, workforce development, postsecondary education*
15 *exploration, and social-emotional education and development.*

16 *B. The Program shall have after-school sessions, to be offered during the school year after regular*
17 *school hours, and one summer session, to be offered during the summer months when school is not in*
18 *session. The Program shall provide a group of up to 100 students each session, selected in accordance*
19 *with subdivision C 1, community, workforce, and education building opportunities, including*
20 *opportunities for:*

21 *1. Workforce development and professional readiness, including career and technical education*
22 *exploration and opportunities for soft-skill development;*

23 *2. Exploring opportunities available in postsecondary education;*

24 *3. Social-emotional development and instruction on the role and importance of restorative justice in*
25 *the community; and*

26 *4. Family engagement and empowerment.*

27 *C. The school boards of Roanoke City Public Schools and Petersburg City Public Schools shall be*
28 *responsible for the administration of the Program. In administering the Program, the school boards may*
29 *collaborate with such other entities as they deem appropriate. In administering the Program, the school*
30 *boards shall:*

31 *1. Establish and administer an application and referral process by which students who are entering*
32 *eighth grade can apply or be referred for participation in the Program, including students who may be*
33 *referred by a teacher for compulsory participation;*

34 *2. Develop and administer an application and hiring process for Program staff, including a Program*
35 *coordinator and professional staff;*

36 *3. Develop and implement a Program curriculum and itinerary for the after-school sessions of the*
37 *Program to be offered during the school year after regular school hours and for the summer session of*
38 *the Program to be offered during the summer months; and*

39 *4. Collect data and report to the Governor, the Senate Committee on Education and Health, and the*
40 *House Committee on Education by November 1 each year on the progress of the Program, including: (i)*
41 *the number of students participating in the Program as a whole and disaggregated by (a) the number of*
42 *students participating during the after-school session of the Program and the summer session of the*
43 *Program and (b) the number of participating students who are enrolled in Roanoke City Public Schools*
44 *and the number of participating students enrolled in Petersburg City Public Schools; (ii) data relating*
45 *to the progress of participating students, including a comparison of pre-participation and*
46 *post-participation absenteeism rates, disciplinary incidents, and academic performance; and (iii) the*
47 *number and rate of reported incidents of gun violence involving participants in the Community Builders*
48 *program, in the City of Roanoke as a whole, and in the City of Petersburg as a whole in comparison to*
49 *previous years.*

50 **2. That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2027.**