

HB 1600 - Budget Bill.

Chief Patron: Torian

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend and reenact Chapter 2 of the Acts of Assembly of 2024, Special Session I, as amended by Chapters 3 and 4 of the Acts of Assembly of 2024, Special Session I, which appropriates the public revenues for two years ending, respectively, on June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026; a Bill to amend and reenact § 58.1-15, § 58.1-322.03, § 58.1-416, § 58.1-419, § 58.1-422.4, § 58.1-422.5, and § 58.1-492 of the Code of Virginia; and a Bill to amend the Code of Virginia by adding § 58.1-339.15 and § 58.1-416.1.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Budget Bill. Amends items of and adds items to Chapter 2 of the Acts of Assembly of 2024, Special Session I.

5 Last Events

12/18/2024	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25103935D
12/18/2024	House	Referred to Committee on Appropriations

HB 1621 - Public institutions of higher education; governing boards; nonvoting, advisory representatives.

Chief Patron: Laufer

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend and reenact § 23.1-1300 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public institutions of higher education; governing boards; nonvoting, advisory representatives.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Public institutions of higher education; governing boards; nonvoting, advisory representatives.

Requires the State Board for Community Colleges, the board of visitors of each baccalaureate public institution of higher education, and each local community college board to appoint a nonvoting, advisory faculty representative to its respective board. Under current law, such an appointment is permissive. The bill also requires the board of visitors of each baccalaureate public institution of higher education and each local community college board to appoint a nonvoting, advisory staff representative to its respective board. The bill requires such advisory faculty and staff representatives to be elected by the faculty and staff of the institution, respectively, in the manner that such faculty and staff members deem appropriate. Current law requires the advisory faculty representative to be chosen from individuals elected by the faculty or the institution's faculty senate or its equivalent. The bill also clarifies that any vacancy of such an advisory representative shall be filled in the same manner as the original selection, whether the vacancy occurs by expiration of a term or otherwise.

5 Last Events

01/03/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25101584D
01/03/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Education

HB 1917 - Higher educational institutions, public and private; confidential resource advisors.

Chief Patron: Martinez

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend and reenact § 23.1-806 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 8.01-400.3 and 23.1-807.2, relating to institutions of higher education; confidential resource advisors.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Institutions of higher education; confidential resource advisors. Requires each public institution of higher education and each private institution of higher education to designate at least one confidential resource advisor to serve as a confidential resource for students and employees to discuss alleged acts of sexual misconduct and receive information on resources available to such students or employees. The bill creates a statutory privilege between the confidential resource advisor and a student or employee who shares information with such confidential resource advisor.

5 Last Events

01/06/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25104496D
01/06/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Education

HB 1995 - SCHEV; regulation of certain private and out-of-state institutions of higher education.

Chief Patron: Bennett-Parker

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend and reenact § 23.1-226 of the Code of Virginia, relating to State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; regulation of certain private and out-of-state institutions of higher education; exemption for certain courses of instruction.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; regulation of certain private and out-of-state institutions of higher education; exemption for certain courses of instruction. Exempts from the provisions of law that permit the State Council of Higher for Virginia to regulate certain private and out-of-state institutions of higher education, including by certifying such institutions to operate in the Commonwealth, noncredit courses of instruction intended solely to prepare students for certification as project management professionals, provided that no such exempted course of instruction exceeds the number of hours required by the certifying body.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25100063D
01/07/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Education

Chief Patron: Walker

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-298.1, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to teachers; employment and licensure; locally awarded subject matter expert teaching credentials.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Teachers; employment and licensure; locally awarded subject matter expert teaching credentials.

Establishes, enumerates criteria for, and permits a division superintendent or a comprehensive community college to issue a locally awarded subject matter expert teaching credential, valid for a period not to exceed three years, to any individual who demonstrates expertise in content or subject matter area in order for such individual to provide instruction or coursework in a corresponding non-core subject or course, as that term is defined in the bill, in grades six through 12 at any public school in the Commonwealth or at a comprehensive community college in the Commonwealth, including dual enrollment or concurrent enrollment courses. The bill delineates the criteria for issuance of such locally awarded subject matter expert teaching credential. The bill also contains several provisions relating to the employment of individuals under a locally awarded subject matter expert teaching credential, including (i) permitting any school division or institution of higher education to hire any such individual on a full-time or part-time basis to teach a non-core subject or course; (ii) requiring any such individual to be subject to a background clearance check and the fingerprinting and criminal history records check requirements required as a condition of employment of any applicant who is offered or accepts employment at a school division pursuant to applicable law; (iii) requiring each employing school board to assign an individual employed by such school board as a mentor to supervise any individual issued a subject matter expert teaching credential; and (iv) permitting any division superintendent to renew an individual's locally awarded subject matter expert teaching credential for a period not to exceed three additional years, provided that such individual receives satisfactory performance evaluations for each year of the original three-year locally awarded subject matter teaching credential. Finally, the bill requires each school division to annually report to the Department of Education the number of locally awarded subject matter expert teaching credentials issued for part-time and full-time teaching positions.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25104347D
01/07/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Education
01/14/2025	House	Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (HB2044)

HB 2045 - State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; publishing of certain institution-level data on website required.

Chief Patron: Walker

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 23.1-204.1 and 23.1-409 of the Code of Virginia, relating to State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; publishing of certain institution-level data on website required.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; publishing of certain institution-level data on website required. Requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to annually publish in an easily accessible format and location on its website data for each public institution of higher education and each nonprofit private institution of higher education eligible to participate in the Tuition Assistance Grant Program on the (i) cost of tuition and fees; (ii) student retention rate; (iii) student graduation rate; (iv) wages of former students three years after graduation; (v) 20 baccalaureate degree programs with the highest average annual wages following graduation; and (vi) 20 associate degree or certificate programs with the highest average annual wages following graduation. The bill requires such data to be presented in a user-friendly format so that the user can compare the data clearly and visually.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25101378D
01/07/2025	House	Referred to Committee on Education

HB 2156 - Public institutions of higher education; student exchange programs; tuition and mandatory fee waivers; conditions.

Chief Patron: Carr

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact § 23.1-611 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public institutions of higher education; students from foreign countries; student exchange programs; tuition and mandatory fee waivers.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Public institutions of higher education; student exchange programs; tuition and mandatory fee waivers; conditions. Clarifies that tuition and mandatory fees may be waived for a student from a foreign country enrolled in a public institution of higher education through a formalized student exchange program approved by such institution, provided that the number of foreign students does not exceed the number of students paying full tuition and mandatory fees to the institution under the provisions of the exchange program for a given three-year period. Current law permits tuition and mandatory fees to be waived for a student from a foreign country enrolled in a public institution of higher education through a student exchange program approved by such institution, provided that the number of students from a foreign country for whom tuition and mandatory fees has been waived does not exceed during any three-year period the number of students from a foreign country who are enrolled through such student exchange program and who pay full tuition and mandatory fees to the institution.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25101816D
01/07/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

Chief Patron: Carr

Status: Committee Referral Pending

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.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Richard Bland College; governance. Removes the authority of the board of visitors of The College of William and Mary in Virginia to supervise, manage, and control Richard Bland College and establishes the nine-member board of visitors of Richard Bland College to generally direct the affairs of Richard Bland College, including appointing all teachers and fixing their salaries, providing for the employment of other personnel as required, and caring for and preserving all property belonging to Richard Bland College. The bill provides for the transfer of relevant property and rights thereto, contracts, and duties from the board of visitors of The College of William and Mary in Virginia to the board of visitors of Richard Bland College. The bill also requires the board of visitors of Richard Bland College to focus its efforts on preparing students for academic and career success and permits the board of visitors to take several enumerated actions in furtherance of such efforts. Finally, the bill provides that the audit conducted by the Auditor of Public Accounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, will be the last audit for which Richard Bland College is treated as a consolidated entity of the board of visitors of The College of William and Mary in Virginia and that beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the Auditor of Public Accounts shall submit its audit report on Richard Bland College to the board of visitors of Richard Bland College.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25101610D
01/07/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2159 - School crossing zones; institutions of higher education.

Chief Patron: Carr

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-873 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school crossing zones; institutions of higher education.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

School crossing zones; institutions of higher education. Expands the definition of "school crossing zone" to include areas surrounding schools where the presence of students reasonably requires a special warning to motorists and provides that the term "school" includes public institutions of higher education and nonprofit private institutions of higher education. Currently, the definition of "school crossing zone" includes only areas surrounding schools where the presence of children requires such warning. The existing provisions of law allowing photo speed monitoring devices to be installed in school crossing zones will apply to any location that meets such expanded definition.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25101680D
01/07/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2161 - Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority; board of directors; chief executive officer.

Chief Patron: Carr

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 23.1-2402 and 23.1-2403 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority; board of directors; chief executive officer.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority; board of directors; chief executive officer. Makes several changes relating to the board of directors and the chief executive officer of the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority (the Authority), including (i) reducing from 19 to 13 the number of appointed members on the boards of directors and adding the chief executive officer of the Authority as an ex officio member with voting privileges, thereby reducing from 21 to 16 the total number of board members; (ii) changing from voting to nonvoting the nature of the membership of the President of Virginia Commonwealth University (the University) on the board of directors and prohibiting rather than requiring, as under current law, the President of the University from serving as chairman of the board of directors; (iii) lengthening the terms of all members of the board of directors from three years to four years; (iv) adding demonstrated experience or expertise in finance or commercial real estate as options for satisfying the required qualifications for certain appointed members and requiring each enumerated area of demonstrated experience or expertise to be represented amongst such appointed members at any given time; (v) requiring the biennial election of a chairman and vice-chairman of the board of directors, requiring such chairman and vice-chairman to have served for at least two years on the board of directors, and prohibiting any employee of the University, employee of the Authority, member of the board of visitors of the University, or legislative member from serving as chairman; (vi) prohibiting rather than permitting, as under current law, the Senior Vice-President for Health Sciences of the University from serving as chief executive officer of the Authority but requiring the Senior Vice-President for Health Sciences to regularly communicate and collaborate with such chief executive officer to support the mutual interests and success of the University and the Authority; (vii) providing that no further action shall be taken if a majority of each of the three-member committees appointed by the board of directors of the Authority and the board of visitors of the University do not agree on the removal of the chief executive officer of the Authority within 30 days of the appointment of the committees by each board; and (viii) providing that in the event that a majority of the members of each committee do not agree on the selection or conditions of appointment of the chief executive officer within 30 days of the appointment of the committees by each board, then the process set forth in statute shall be repeated until such selection has been made or such conditions of appointment have been determined. Current law requires the President of the University to make a binding decision in the event of any such disagreement.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25104230D
01/07/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2207 - Public institutions of higher education; presence of or material aid or support to terrorist activities, organizations, and states prohibited.

Chief Patron: Kilgore

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-400.1, relating to public institutions of higher education; presence of or material aid or support to terrorist activities, organizations, and states prohibited.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Public institutions of higher education; presence of or material aid or support to terrorist activities, organizations, and states prohibited. Prohibits from accessing, occupying, or otherwise having a physical presence on any campus of a public institution of higher education any (i) terrorist organization, (ii) state or non-state sponsor of terrorism, (iii) representative of a terrorist organization, as those terms are defined by the bill, or (iv) individual who, knowingly and with the intent set forth in the bill, solicits or attempts to solicit any individual to engage in terrorist activity, become a member of terrorist organization, or provide funds or other material support or resources, as that term is defined by the bill, to support, facilitate, or aid or abet terrorist activity or a terrorist organization. The bill prohibits any public institution of higher education from (a) granting access to campus, (b) providing or facilitating the provision of funds or other material supports or resources, (c) making or facilitating the donation of material support or resources, or (d) entering into any contract providing for the exchange of services or material support or resources to any of the individuals or organizations described in clauses (i) through (iv). Finally, the bill sets forth certain exceptions for individuals that lack the requisite intent and knowledge, as set forth in the bill, to be subject to the prohibitions.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102906D
01/07/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2225 - Commonwealth Savers Plan; Access Fund established; report.

Chief Patron: Cousins

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3711, 23.1-700, 23.1-701, 23.1-702, 23.1-704, and 23.1-705 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Commonwealth Savers Plan; Access Fund established; report.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Commonwealth Savers Plan; Access Fund established; report. Establishes the Access Fund as a portion of the Fund of the Commonwealth Savers Plan (the Plan), to be managed by the governing board of the Plan (the board) as a part of the Fund but to be accounted for separately from the Fund, into which certain Fund moneys shall be allocated for the purpose of supporting the Plan's goal of enhancing the accessibility, attainability, and affordability of higher education for all citizens of the Commonwealth. The bill directs the board to (i) establish or identify and fund certain programs and partnerships to further the goal of enhancing the accessibility, attainability, and affordability of higher education for all citizens of the Commonwealth, including programs and partnerships that provide scholarships, grants, or mentoring and coaching services to certain identified populations of students; (ii) use certain distributions from the Access Fund, in accordance with the investment objectives and total return spending policy described in the bill and the standard of care set forth in applicable law, to support such programs and partnerships; (iii) appoint an Access Advisory Committee for the purpose of assisting the board by making recommendations relating to any such programs and partnerships for which distributions from the Access Fund could be used; and (iv) submit to relevant committees of the General Assembly and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission by December 1 of each year a report on the Plan's activities relating to the Access Fund for the preceding year. Finally, the bill directs the Audit and Actuarial Committee to, in addition to its other duties set forth in applicable law, assess and make recommendations to the board regarding the availability of Fund moneys for allocation to the Access Fund.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102047D
01/07/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2240 - Institutions of higher education; Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantry Grant Program established; report.

Chief Patron: Cousins

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-409.2, relating to institutions of higher education; Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantry Grant Program established; report.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Institutions of higher education; Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantry Grant Program established; report. Establishes the Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantry Grant Program to address student food insecurity at public institutions of higher education and eligible private institutions of higher education, as defined by the bill. The bill provides that the Program shall be managed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and available for participation by public institutions of higher education and eligible private institutions of higher education; however, participation in the Program is optional for such institutions. Under the bill, if a public institution of higher education satisfies certain criteria set out in the bill, including creating initiatives on campus to address student food insecurity, it will receive a "Hunger-Free Campus Food Pantry" designation and the Council will award a grant to such institution. Any such institution that receives a grant under the bill is required to utilize the funds to support on-campus efforts and initiatives to eliminate student food insecurity at such institution through the maintenance and operation of the on-campus food pantry established pursuant to the Program. The bill requires the Council to submit a report to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education no later than two years after the establishment of the Program.

5 Last Events

01/07/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25104470D
01/07/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2359 - Bonds for public institutions of higher learning; emergency.

Chief Patron: Torian

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to authorize the issuance of bonds, in an amount up to \$206,085,243 plus financing costs, pursuant to Article X, Section 9 (c) of the Constitution of Virginia, for paying costs of acquiring, constructing, and equipping revenue-producing capital projects at institutions of higher learning of the Commonwealth; to authorize the Treasury Board, by and with the consent of the Governor, to fix the details of such bonds, to provide for the sale of such bonds, and to issue notes to borrow money in anticipation of the issuance of the bonds; to provide for the pledge of the net revenues of such capital projects and the full faith, credit and taxing power of the Commonwealth for the payment of such bonds; to provide that the interest income on such bonds and notes shall be exempt from all taxation by the Commonwealth and any political subdivision thereof; emergency.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Bonds for public institutions of higher learning; emergency. Authorizes issuance of bonds in an amount up to \$206,085,243 for revenue-producing capital projects at James Madison University and The College of William and Mary in Virginia. The bill contains an emergency clause.

5 Last Events

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed with emergency clause; Offered 01-08-2025 25100774D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending
01/13/2025	House	Fiscal Impact Statement from Department of Planning and Budget (HB2359)

HB 2420 - Public institutions of higher education; intercollegiate athletics program coaches; Mental Health First Aid or similar training required.

Chief Patron: Webert

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact § 23.1-802 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public institutions of higher education; intercollegiate athletics program coaches; Mental Health First Aid or similar training required.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Public institutions of higher education; intercollegiate athletics program coaches; Mental Health First Aid or similar training required. Requires each coach of an intercollegiate athletics program at a public institution of higher education to participate in Mental Health First Aid training or a similar program prior to the commencement of his duties.

5 Last Events

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25100734D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2421 - Baccalaureate public institutions of higher education; intercollegiate athletics programs; certain intrastate competition required.

Chief Patron: Webert

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-1309.1, relating to baccalaureate public institutions of higher education; intercollegiate athletics programs; certain intrastate competition required.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Baccalaureate public institutions of higher education; intercollegiate athletics programs; certain intrastate competition required. Requires the board of visitors of each baccalaureate public institution of higher education that is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to ensure that each intercollegiate athletics program that contributes to the institution's athletics revenue competes at least once every eight years against the intercollegiate athletics program in the same sport and in the same NCAA division at each other baccalaureate public institution of higher education. The bill provides that the foregoing provisions shall not be construed to prohibit or affect any contract or agreement between baccalaureate public institutions of higher education for the provision and receipt of compensation for competition between their intercollegiate athletics programs.

5 Last Events

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25100736D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2441 - Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center Board of Trustees; authority to permit campus security officers to carry firearms in performance of official duties; conditions.

Chief Patron: O'Quinn

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact § 23.1-3127 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center Board of Trustees; authority to permit campus security officers to carry firearms in performance of official duties; conditions.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center Board of Trustees; authority to permit campus security officers to carry firearms in performance of official duties; conditions. Authorizes the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center Board of Trustees to permit campus security personnel employed in its campus security department to carry firearms in the performance of their official duties, provided that such campus security personnel are considered armed security officers, as such term is defined in relevant law, and comply with all relevant statutory and regulatory requirements attendant to such designation, including registration and training.

5 Last Events

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25101883D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2452 - Baccalaureate public institutions of higher education; livestreaming, recording, and archiving of boards of visitors meetings; closed sessions; guidelines.

Chief Patron: Hodges

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-1303.1, relating to baccalaureate public institutions of higher education; livestreaming, recording, and archiving of boards of visitors meetings; closed sessions; guidelines.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Baccalaureate public institutions of higher education; livestreaming, recording, and archiving of boards of visitors meetings; closed sessions; guidelines. Requires each baccalaureate public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth to (i) provide for the livestreaming of all meetings of its board of visitors, including full board meetings, committee meetings, and subcommittee meetings, in a manner that is accessible to the public in real time and (ii) ensure that recordings of such meetings (a) are made, archived, and made available to the public within five business days following the conclusion of the meeting, (b) remain accessible on the institution's official website for no less than five years from the date of the meeting, and (c) include closed captioning for accessibility and are presented in a format compliant with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The bill requires the board of visitors of each such institution to include a report on the institution's compliance with the foregoing requirements in its statutorily-required annual report. The bill also requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to develop and provide to each baccalaureate public institution of higher education guidelines to assist such institutions with complying with the foregoing requirements, including recommendations for technology standards and accessibility features.

5 Last Events

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102838D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2463 - Virginia Community College System; certain dual enrollment instructors; certain flexibility in qualifications.

Chief Patron: Scott, P.A.

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to provide flexibility in the qualifications for certain dual enrollment instructors.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Virginia Community College System; certain dual enrollment instructors; certain flexibility in qualifications. Permits the requirement for an individual to have completed 18 credit hours of course work in the relevant career and technical education (CTE) content area in order to qualify as an instructor of CTE dual enrollment courses that are transferrable to a baccalaureate public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth to be waived in any case in which the employing comprehensive community college determines that such individual has sufficient and specific occupational experience in such content area. The bill requires each comprehensive community college in the Virginia Community College System to work with its institutional accreditor to remove any barriers to the full implementation of the aforementioned flexibility.

5 Last Events

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25101870D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2529 - Public institutions of higher education; endowments; investment management; certain divestment practices prohibited.

Chief Patron: Jones

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-101.1, relating to public institutions of higher education; endowments; investment management; certain divestment practices prohibited.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Public institutions of higher education; endowments; investment management; certain divestment practices prohibited. Prohibits any public institution of higher education or any affiliated foundation, investment management company, or other entity that is responsible for managing or investing endowment funds of the institution from establishing or implementing any policy or practice of divesting from all investments in any country or territory that is not the subject of an active sanctions program administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

5 Last Events

01/08/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102939D
01/08/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2548 - Practical nursing programs, certain; transferability to registered nursing programs, etc.

Chief Patron: Rasoul

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 23.1 a section numbered 23.1-903.5, relating to certain practical nursing programs; common curriculum; transferability to registered nursing programs; pathway of stackable credentials.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Certain practical nursing programs; common curriculum; transferability to registered nursing programs; pathway of stackable credentials. Requires the Virginia Community College System, in consultation with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Board of Nursing, and representatives from associate-degree-granting public institutions of higher education that offer nursing programs, to develop a common curriculum for practical nursing programs that shall be implemented at each comprehensive community college in the System that offers a practical nursing program. The bill requires such common curriculum, to the extent possible, to (i) align with the degree requirements for registered nursing programs offered at associate-degree-granting public institutions of higher education and (ii) be transferable to each registered nursing program offered at an associate-degree-granting public institution of higher education. The bill (a) requires each associate-degree-granting public institution of higher education that offers a registered nursing degree program to participate in a practical nursing program to registered nursing program transfer agreement with the System that aligns with the practical nursing program common curriculum established pursuant to the bill and (b) permits any private institution of higher education that offers a registered nursing degree program to be consulted regarding and participate on a voluntary basis in such a transfer agreement. The bill also requires the System to establish a pathway of stackable nursing credentials that consists of a practical nursing to associate registered nursing to bachelor of science in nursing program pathway.

5 Last Events

01/10/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25104272D
01/10/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2590 - Virginia Student Training Employment Pipeline for U.S. Procurement (STEP UP) Grant Fund and Program established.

Chief Patron: Cole

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-204.3, relating to Virginia Student Training Employment Pipeline for U.S. Procurement (STEP UP) Grant Fund and Program established.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Virginia Student Training Employment Pipeline for U.S. Procurement (STEP UP) Grant Fund and Program established. Directs the Department of Education to establish the Virginia Student Training Employment Pipeline for U.S. Procurement (STEP UP) Grant Fund and Program for the purpose of awarding grants on a competitive basis to any student enrolled in the eleventh or twelfth grade at a public high school in the Commonwealth or enrolled at a comprehensive community college or historically black college or university in the Commonwealth who enters into an agreement with an entity located in the relevant local school division or region that has a procurement contract with the federal government whereby such entity agrees to provide assistance to the student to obtain, prior to graduation, any federal security clearance at the public trust or national security level and any other education, training, or credential that is necessary for the student to be prepared for employment with such entity upon graduation in exchange for a commitment from the student to accept and remain in such an employment position for an agreed-upon period of time after graduation. The bill requires the Department, in awarding grants pursuant to the Program, to give priority to students from middle-income or low-income families.

5 Last Events

01/13/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25101044D
01/13/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2593 - Commonwealth Savers Plan; State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; Virginia College Access and Affordability Scholarship Fund established; work group; report.

Chief Patron: Tran

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 23.1-700, 23.1-701, 23.1-704, and 23.1-706 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 2 of Title 23.1 an article numbered 5, consisting of sections numbered 23.1-235, 23.1-236, and 23.1-237, and by adding a section numbered 23.1-707.2, relating to Commonwealth Savers Plan; State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; Virginia College Access and Affordability Scholarship Fund established; work group; report.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Commonwealth Savers Plan; State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; Virginia College Access and Affordability Scholarship Fund established; work group; report. Directs the transfer of actuarial surplus defined benefit prepaid tuition contract funds from the fund of the Commonwealth Savers Plan (the Plan) into a DB529 subfund established in the bill to be used for (i) a surplus rebate program and (ii) establishing the Virginia College Access and Affordability Scholarship Fund (the Access Fund).

The surplus rebate program returns actuarial surplus funds, in \$2,500 checks, to owners of a prepaid tuition contract who entered into such contract before July 1, 2019, and claim such rebate before July 1, 2026. The amount of rebates available shall not exceed \$350 million. When claiming the rebate, the application allows such rebate amount to be applied to a new prepaid tuition contract or a Roth individual retirement account in lieu of the check.

The bill establishes an Investment Board with investment and actuarial expertise to review and make recommendations to the General Assembly on each deposit from the DB529 Fund to the Access Fund.

After an initial \$500 million deposit from the DB529 subfund, dedicated assets of the Access Fund shall be invested and managed by the Plan. Funds in the Access Fund shall be used to establish a scholarship program to be managed and administered by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (the Council). The scholarship program provides scholarship awards to students enrolled in an eligible education program, defined in the bill, and a portion of the funds are to be devoted to college access resources or programs to assist low-income students, first generation college students, students from underrepresented communities, or other at-risk students with their introduction to the higher education system in Virginia, college applications, financial aid applications, and resources assisting with a successful transition from high school to college. The Council is required to report on the Access Fund and scholarship program no later than December 31 each year.

Finally, the bill (a) directs the Council to establish a work group of higher education stakeholders to make recommendations on allocations of funds available through the Access Fund and scholarship program and directs the work group to report to the House Committees on Education and Appropriations and Senate Committees on Education and Health and Finance and Appropriations no later than November 1, 2025, and (b) prohibits the Plan from implementing or taking part in any initiatives relating to the accessibility or the aforementioned college access programs on or after July 1, 2025.

5 Last Events

01/13/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25104492D
01/13/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HB 2601 - Virginia Longitudinal Data System; participation; audit; student data standardization and integration.

Chief Patron: Glass

Status: Committee Referral Pending

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-2036, 22.1-259, and 23.1-203 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-204.2, relating to Virginia Longitudinal Data System; participation; audit; student data standardization and integration.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Virginia Longitudinal Data System; participation; audit; student data standardization and integration.

Requires each public institution of higher education, local school division, public elementary or secondary school, and local board of social services and the Department of Education, the Virginia Employment Commission, the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board, the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement, and the State Department of Social Services to participate in the Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS) administered by the State Council of Higher Education. The bill requires the Office of Data Governance and Analytics to annually audit VLDS for compliance with relevant state and federal privacy laws. The bill also requires every teacher in every public school in the Commonwealth to keep an accurate daily record of attendance of all children, both (i) during a roll call at the beginning of the school day and (ii) for each class period, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Board of Education. Current law requires such a daily record of attendance but is silent on records of attendance for each class period. The bill requires the Board of Education to prescribe by regulation uniform class grading standards based on daily student attendance in such class that, at minimum, establish a maximum number of student unexcused absences per daily class period that are permitted before such student shall be deemed to have failed such class. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish uniform processes for the standardization of student data in each local school division, including the aforementioned student attendance data, and the integration of such data into the Virginia Longitudinal Data System in order to ensure efficient, seamless, and full compliance with the participation requirements established in the bill. The bill finally requires, with such funds as may be appropriated for such purpose pursuant to the general appropriation act, the Department of Education to (a) provide funding and logistical support to local school divisions for the information technology improvements necessary for such data standardization and integration, giving preference to rural school divisions that have greater need for assistance, and (b) create a statewide dashboard providing real-time data analytics for policymakers and educators.

5 Last Events

01/13/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25103035D
01/13/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

HJ 25 - Historically black colleges and universities; joint subcommittee to study challenges faced, etc.

Chief Patron: Askew

Status: Failed

Establishing a joint committee of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health to study the challenges faced by and effective strategies for ensuring the sustainable, long-term success of the five historically black colleges and universities in the Commonwealth. Report.

24104883D

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Study; joint committee of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health; challenges faced by and effective strategies for ensuring the sustainable, long-term success of the five historically black colleges and universities in the Commonwealth; report. Establishes a joint committee consisting of five members of the House Committee on Education and three members of the Senate Committee on Education and Health to study the challenges faced by and effective strategies for ensuring the sustainable, long-term success of the five historically black colleges and universities in the Commonwealth—Hampton University, Norfolk State University, Virginia State University, Virginia Union University, and Virginia University of Lynchburg—by discussing, adopting, and recommending to the Governor and the General Assembly for formal recognition and endorsement a comprehensive statewide HBCU Support Plan.

5 Last Events

01/09/2024	House	Referred to Committee on Rules
01/25/2024	House	Assigned Rules sub: Studies Subcommittee
01/29/2024	House	Subcommittee recommends continuing to 2025 (Voice Vote)
02/01/2024	House	Continued to 2025 in Rules (Voice Vote)
11/18/2024	House	Left in Rules

HJ 39 - Comprehensive community colleges, certain; JLARC to study waiver of tuition and mandatory fees.

Chief Patron: Lopez

Status: Failed

Directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the feasibility of waiving tuition and mandatory fees for Virginia students who attend Mountain Empire Community College, Southwest Virginia Community College, and Virginia Highlands Community College. Report.

24101558D

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Study; JLARC; waiver of tuition and mandatory fees at certain comprehensive community colleges; report. Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the feasibility of waiving tuition and mandatory fees for Virginia students who attend Mountain Empire Community College, Southwest Virginia Community College, and Virginia Highlands Community College and report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than November 30, 2024.

5 Last Events

01/09/2024	House	Referred to Committee on Rules
01/25/2024	House	Assigned Rules sub: Studies Subcommittee
01/29/2024	House	Subcommittee recommends continuing to 2025 (Voice Vote)
02/01/2024	House	Continued to 2025 in Rules (Voice Vote)
11/18/2024	House	Left in Rules

HJ 61 - Higher ed. institutions, baccalaureate public; SCHEV to study \$10,000 tuition per year degree.

Chief Patron: Runion

Status: Failed

Requesting the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to study the feasibility of implementing the option for students to pay \$10,000 annually for tuition and mandatory fees to earn a degree at a baccalaureate public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth. Report.

24103567D

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Study; State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; \$10,000 per year baccalaureate degree; report.

Requests that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (i) study the feasibility of implementing the option for students to pay \$10,000 annually for tuition and mandatory fees to earn a degree at a baccalaureate public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth by surveying each baccalaureate public institution of higher education to determine the likely impact of such an option on enrollment, revenue, costs, services, staffing, and such other factors as the institution deems relevant and (ii) report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than November 30, 2024.

5 Last Events

01/10/2024	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103567D
01/10/2024	House	Referred to Committee on Rules
02/01/2024	House	Continued to 2025 in Rules (Voice Vote)
11/18/2024	House	Left in Rules

HJ 468 - Study; JLARC; cost efficiency of public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth; report.

Chief Patron: Singh

Status: Committee Referral Pending

Directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the cost efficiency of public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth and to identify opportunities to reduce the cost of public higher education in the Commonwealth. Report.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Study; JLARC; cost efficiency of public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth; report.

Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to study the cost efficiency of public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth and to identify opportunities to reduce the cost of public higher education in the Commonwealth. In conducting this study, JLARC is directed to examine the full range of costs for in-state tuition and room and board at each public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth, to compare and consider the amount of funding appropriated by the state to each public institution of higher education since 2012, and to provide a comprehensive update on the status of the implementation of its recommendations pursuant to House Joint Resolution 108 (2012). The resolution requires JLARC to complete its meetings for the first year by November 30, 2025, and for the second year by November 30, 2026, and requires the chairman to submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each year.

5 Last Events

01/13/2025	House	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-13-2025 25103224D
01/13/2025	House	Committee Referral Pending

SB 219 - Va. Nat'l Guard State Tuition Assistance Program; provisions relating to eligibility for grants.

Chief Patron: Sturtevant

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 23.1-610 of the Code of Virginia, relating to institutions of higher education; tuition grants; Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program.

24104580D

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Institutions of higher education; tuition grants; Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program. Makes several changes to the Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program, including (i) making the provisions relating to the requirements and conditions for eligibility for and award of grants under the Program subject to regulations as prescribed by the Adjutant General, (ii) eliminating the requirement to satisfy financial obligations with the institution of higher education at the beginning of each semester, (iii) simplifying the requirements relating to academic performance and good standing, and (iv) providing that any grant awarded shall be in an amount equivalent to the difference between the full cost of tuition and fees at the institution of higher education less any other educational benefits for which an individual is eligible as a member of the National Guard.

5 Last Events

01/25/2024	Senate	Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations
01/26/2024	Senate	Senate committee, floor amendments and substitutes offered
01/31/2024	Senate	Impact statement from DPB (SB219)
01/31/2024	Senate	Continued to 2025 in Finance and Appropriations (10-Y 5-N)
11/19/2024	Senate	Left in Finance and Appropriations

SB 318 - Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program; established, report.

Chief Patron: Roem

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-409.2, relating to public institutions of higher education; Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program; established; report.

24104716D

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Public institutions of higher education; Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program established; report.

Establishes the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program to address student food insecurity at public institutions of higher education. The bill provides that the Program shall be managed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and available for participation by public institutions of higher education; however, participation in the Program shall be optional for such institutions. Under the bill, if a public institution of higher education satisfies certain criteria set out in the bill, including creating initiatives on campus to address student food insecurity, it shall be designated as a "Hunger-Free Campus" and the Council shall award a grant to such institution. A public institution of higher education that receives a grant under the bill shall utilize the funds to support on-campus efforts and initiatives to eliminate student food insecurity at such institution. The bill requires the Council to submit a report to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education no later than two years after the establishment of the Program.

5 Last Events

01/18/2024	Senate	Reported from Education and Health (15-Y 0-N)
01/18/2024	Senate	Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations
01/22/2024	Senate	Impact statement from DPB (SB318)
01/31/2024	Senate	Continued to 2025 in Finance and Appropriations (12-Y 3-N)
11/19/2024	Senate	Left in Finance and Appropriations

SB 501 - Virginia College Opportunity Endowment and Fund; created.

Chief Patron: Surovell

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 23.1-701, 23.1-704, 23.1-706, 58.1-322.03, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, 58.1-344.3, and 58.1-402 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-702.1 and by adding in Title 23.1 a chapter numbered 7.1, consisting of sections numbered 23.1-714 through 23.1-717, relating to Virginia College Savings Plan; Virginia College Opportunity Endowment and Fund.

24100972D

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Virginia College Savings Plan; Virginia College Opportunity Endowment and Fund. Directs the board of the Virginia College Savings Plan to deposit \$250 million per year of surplus moneys from the Plan's fund into the Virginia College Opportunity Fund, established by the bill. The bill provides that such deposit shall not be made or shall be reduced in any year in which the College Opportunity Investment Advisory Committee determines that certain conditions relating to the Plan's funded status are not met. The Committee is established by the bill as an advisory committee for the Plan, for the purpose of determining the amount of deposits to be made to the Fund.

The bill provides that financial management of the Fund is the responsibility of the board of the Plan but authorizes the board of the Virginia College Opportunity Endowment, also established by the bill, to manage a scholarship program funded by the Fund. The bill establishes an individual and corporate income tax subtraction for donations to the Fund.

Under the bill, the Endowment provides scholarships to students who attend or plan to attend one of 12 eligible universities named in the bill. The bill provides that only such students who meet the eligibility requirements for a Federal Pell Grant and commit to being employed in Virginia, or being enrolled in postgraduate education in Virginia, for at least eight years after graduation from an eligible university are eligible for such scholarships.

5 Last Events

02/01/2024	Senate	Reported from Education and Health with substitute (9-Y 6-N)
02/01/2024	Senate	Committee substitute printed 24106430D-S1
02/01/2024	Senate	Rereferred to Finance and Appropriations
02/12/2024	Senate	Continued to 2025 in Finance and Appropriations (15-Y 0-N)
11/19/2024	Senate	Left in Finance and Appropriations

SB 563 - Regional career and technical education program; establishing in Planning District 2.

Chief Patron: Hackworth

Status: Failed

A BILL to direct the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Virginia Community College System, to study the feasibility of and make recommendations on developing a plan for establishing in Planning District 2 a regional career and technical education program.

24107526D

SUMMARY AS PASSED SENATE:

Department of Education; Virginia Community College System; regional career and technical education program. Directs the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Virginia Community College System, the Virginia Board of Workforce Development, the Board of Education, the school board and division superintendent of Tazewell County Public Schools, and representatives of the governing boards of comprehensive community colleges located in Tazewell County and contiguous counties to study the feasibility of and make recommendations on developing a plan for establishing a regional career and technical education program for all students in grade levels six through 12 who reside in Planning District 2.

5 Last Events

02/15/2024	House	Referred to Committee on Rules
02/22/2024	House	Assigned Rules sub: Studies Subcommittee
02/23/2024	House	Subcommittee recommends continuing to 2025 (Voice Vote)
02/23/2024	House	Continued to 2025 in Rules (Voice Vote)
11/18/2024	House	Left in Rules

SB 717 - Higher educational institutions, public; duties of governing boards, acceptance & use of donations.

Chief Patron: McDougle

Status: Failed

A BILL to amend and reenact § 23.1-1304.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public institutions of higher education; duties of governing boards; acceptance and use of donations.

24103429D

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Public institutions of higher education; duties of governing boards; acceptance and use of donations.

Provides that the governing board of each public institution of higher education may receive, take, hold, and enjoy any donation or gift made to such institution or governing board and may use and administer any such donation or gift for the uses and purposes designated by the donor or, if no such specific designation is made, for the general purposes of the institution. The bill provides that in the event that a donor specifically designates any particular use or purpose for a donation or gift, each governing board is required to appropriate such donation or gift and any resulting interest, income, and profits only to such specifically designated use or purpose, provided, however, that if such specifically designated use or purpose fails by any means such that the specifically designated use or purpose is permanently frustrated, the whole donation or gift, including unexpended principal and interest, will revert to and be vested in the donor or his legal representatives.

5 Last Events

01/19/2024	Senate	Presented and ordered printed 24103429D
01/19/2024	Senate	Referred to Committee on Education and Health
01/26/2024	Senate	Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education
02/01/2024	Senate	Continued to 2025 in Education and Health (15-Y 0-N)
11/19/2024	Senate	Left in Education and Health

SB 792 - SCHEV; publishing of certain institution-level data on website required.

Chief Patron: Head

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 23.1-204.1 and 23.1-409 of the Code of Virginia, relating to State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; publishing of certain institution-level data on website required.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; publishing of certain institution-level data on website required. Requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to annually publish in an easily accessible format and location on its website data for each public institution of higher education and each nonprofit private institution of higher education eligible to participate in the Tuition Assistance Grant Program on the (i) cost of tuition and fees; (ii) student retention rate; (iii) student graduation rate; (iv) wages of former students three years after graduation; (v) 20 baccalaureate degree programs with the highest average annual wages following graduation; and (vi) 20 associate degree or certificate programs with the highest average annual wages following graduation. The bill requires such data to be presented in a user-friendly format so that the user can compare the data clearly and visually.

5 Last Events

12/28/2024	Senate	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25101919D
12/28/2024	Senate	Referred to Committee on Education and Health

SB 800 - Budget Bill.

Chief Patron: Lucas

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend and reenact Chapter 2 of the Acts of Assembly of 2024, Special Session I, as amended by Chapters 3 and 4 of the Acts of Assembly of 2024, Special Session I, which appropriates the public revenues for two years ending, respectively, on June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026; a Bill to amend and reenact § 58.1-15, § 58.1-322.03, § 58.1-416, § 58.1-419, § 58.1-422.4, § 58.1-422.5, and § 58.1-492 of the Code of Virginia; and a Bill to amend the Code of Virginia by adding § 58.1-339.15 and § 58.1-416.1.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Budge Bill. Amends items of and adds items to Chapter 2 of the Acts of Assembly of 2024, Special Session I.

5 Last Events

12/18/2024	Senate	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25103938D
12/18/2024	Senate	Referred to Committee on Finance and Appropriations

SB 835 - Virginia College Opportunity Endowment and Fund; established, report.

Chief Patron: Surovell

Status: In Committee

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3705.7, 2.2-3711, 23.1-700, 23.1-701, 23.1-704, 23.1-706, 23.1-707, 23.1-711, 23.1-713, 58.1-322.03, 58.1-344.3, and 58.1-402 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-702.1 and by adding in Chapter 7 of Title 23.1 an article numbered 2, consisting of sections numbered 23.1-714, 23.1-715, and 23.1-716, relating to the Commonwealth Savers Plan; Virginia College Opportunity Endowment and Fund established; report.

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Commonwealth Savers Plan; Virginia College Opportunity Endowment and Fund established; report.

Establishes (i) the Endowment Scholarship Program for the purpose of providing scholarships to students at eligible institutions, as defined in the bill; (ii) the Virginia College Opportunity Endowment as an agency of the Commonwealth for the purpose of establishing and administering the Endowment Scholarship Program; (iii) as a subfund of the Commonwealth Savers Plan's fund, the DB529 Fund for the purpose of holding in trust the assets of prepaid tuition contracts to meet contractual obligations; (iv) as a subfund of the Commonwealth Savers Plan's fund, the Virginia College Opportunity Fund (the Opportunity Fund), into which certain funds from the DB529 Fund shall be deposited for the purpose of funding, by income generated from investments of such deposits, the Endowment Scholarship Program and other programs established for the purpose of enhancing educational access and affordability for students with recognized financial need, as set forth in the bill; and (v) the College Opportunity Investment Advisory Committee for the purpose of making recommendations to and assisting the General Assembly in determining the prudence of directing deposits, and the amounts of any such deposits, of actuarial surpluses of the Commonwealth Savers Plan from the DB529 Fund into the Opportunity Fund.

The bill requires the board of the Commonwealth Savers Plan to (a) after the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2025, deposit \$500 million into the Opportunity Fund from the DB529 Fund; (b) each fiscal year thereafter, in accordance with the timeline set forth in the bill, submit to the General Assembly a report on the funded status, as defined by applicable law, of the DB529 Fund and the recommendation of the College Opportunity Investment Advisory Committee as to the prudence of directing deposits of additional actuarial surpluses of the Plan from the DB529 Fund into the Opportunity Fund; and (c) each subsequent year, deposit additional actuarial surpluses into the Opportunity Fund in accordance with the provisions of the bill. Finally, the bill contains provisions (1) relating to voluntary contributions to the Opportunity Fund for the purpose of receiving tax fund contributions and income tax deductions; (2) exempting from mandatory disclosure requirements certain information contained in a public record relating to the Commonwealth Savers Plan or the Virginia College Opportunity Endowment and Fund, and (3) authorizing the College Opportunity Investment Advisory Committee to hold closed meetings for certain purposes.

5 Last Events

01/01/2025	Senate	Prefiled and ordered printed; Offered 01-08-2025 25102163D
01/01/2025	Senate	Referred to Committee on Finance and Appropriations

Counts: HB: 24 HJ: 4 SB: 8 SJ: 0