

SENATE BILL NO. 1280

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Dunnavant)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 3 of Chapter 9 of Title 23.1 a section numbered 23.1-906.1, relating to public institutions of higher education; course credit earned through internships required; policies.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 3 of Chapter 9 of Title 23.1 a section numbered 23.1-906.1 as follows:

§ 23.1-906.1. Course credit; internships; guidelines.

The governing board of each public institution of higher education shall develop and implement policies requiring three of the 120 minimum semester hours required for the completion of a bachelor's degree and three of the 60 minimum semester hours required for completion of an associate degree pursuant to 8VAC40-31-140 to be earned through participation in an internship or work-based learning experience.

2. That the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall convene a work group for the purpose of making recommendations on the development and implementation of the policies required pursuant to this act. In making its recommendations, the work group shall also define any exceptions to the policy relating to the eligibility of certain internships and work-based learning experiences to count toward the required semester hours. The work group shall submit its recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by November 1, 2024.

3. That the governing board of each public institution of higher education shall develop and implement policies required pursuant to this act by the beginning of the 2025–2026 school year.

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