

SENATE BILL NO. 27

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations

on January 30, 2024)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Stanley)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 4 of Chapter 13 of Title 22.1 a section numbered 22.1-227.2, relating to Public School Trades Incentive Fund and Program; established.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 4 of Chapter 13 of Title 22.1 a section numbered 22.1-227.2 as follows:

§ 22.1-227.2. Public School Trades Incentive Fund and Program.

A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Public School Trades Incentive Fund, referred to in this section as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All funds appropriated for such purpose and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds received on its behalf 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 to school boards pursuant to the Public School Trades Incentive Program established in 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.

B. The Public School Trades Incentive Program (the Program) is established for the purpose of providing grants on a competitive basis from the Fund to any school board that seeks to (i) restore high school programs that teach students skilled trades that lead to earning industry-recognized certifications or credentials or (ii) create or restore middle school programs that encourage and recruit students to

27 participate in high school programs that teach students skilled trades that lead to earning industry-
28 recognized certifications or credentials.

29 C. The Department shall administer the Program and shall establish such rules and procedures
30 relating to applications and awards as it deems appropriate, provided that the Department considers and
31 gives appropriate weight to the following criteria for grantees:

32 1. The number of job openings in the geographical area served by the school board for which the
33 desired industry-recognized certifications or credentials would make a certified or credentialed student a
34 competitive candidate;

35 2. The number of students who will be eligible to enroll in the restored high school programs or
36 the new or restored middle school programs;

37 3. The socioeconomic status of such eligible students; and

38 4. The extent to which such programs are made available to students from multiple schools within
39 the local school division or from other local school divisions.

40 D. Any grantee shall use Program funds only for equipment.

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