1	HOUSE BILL NO. 700
2	AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
3	(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health
4	on February 22, 2024)
5	(Patron Prior to SubstituteDelegate Tata)
6	A BILL to amend and reenact § 23.1-601 of the Code of Virginia, relating to certain individuals in foster
7	care, in the custody of the Department of Social Services, or considered a special needs adoption;
8	parameters of higher education grants; point of contact for support and guidance.
9	Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:
10	1. That § 23.1-601 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:
11	§ 23.1-601. Public institutions of higher education; grants for tuition, room and board, and
12	fees for certain individuals; point of contact.
13	A. Each-comprehensive community college shall and any other associate degree-granting public
14	institution of higher education-or baccalaureate public institution of higher education may shall provide a
15	grant for the payment of tuition and fees, except fees established for the purpose of paying for course
16	materials such as laboratory fees, and, if such institution is a baccalaureate public institution of higher
17	education, room and board, for any Virginia student who:
18	1. a. Has received a high school diploma or has passed a high school equivalency examination
19	approved by the Board of Education and was in foster care or in the custody of the Department of Social
20	Services or-is_was considered a special needs adoption at-the_any time-such diploma or certificate was
21	awarded after he turned 14; or
22	b. Was in foster care when he turned 18 and subsequently received a high school diploma or passed
23	a high school equivalency examination approved by the Board of Education;
24	2. Is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment as a full-time or part-time student, taking a
25	minimum of six credit hours per semester, in a degree or certificate program of at least one academic year
26	in length or in a noncredit workforce credential program in a comprehensive community college;

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27	3. Has not been enrolled in postsecondary education as a full-time student for more than five years
28	or does not have a bachelor's degree;
29	4. Maintains the required grade point average established by the governing board of the institution
30	at which he is enrolled;
31	5. Has submitted complete applications for federal student financial aid programs for which he
32	may be eligible;
33	6. Demonstrates financial need; and
34	7. Meets any additional financial need requirements established by the governing board of the
35	institution at which he is enrolled for the purposes of such grant.
36	B. The State Board and the Council, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, shall
37	establish regulations governing such grants. The regulations shall include provisions addressing renewals
38	of grants, financial need, the calculation of grant amounts after consideration of any additional financial
39	resources or aid the student holds, the minimum grade point average required to retain such grant, and
40	procedures for the repayment of tuition and fees for failure to meet the requirements imposed by this
41	section.
42	C. Each public institution of higher education shall identify at least one employee of the institution
43	to serve as a point of contact for each enrolled student who was in foster care or in the custody of the
44	Department of Social Services or was considered a special needs adoption in order to provide such student
45	with support and guidance, including support and guidance relating to financial aid and any associated
46	applications or other required paperwork.
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