

HOUSE BILL NO. 700

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health

on February 22, 2024)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Tata)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 23.1-601 of the Code of Virginia, relating to certain individuals in foster care, in the custody of the Department of Social Services, or considered a special needs adoption; parameters of higher education grants; point of contact for support and guidance.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 23.1-601 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 23.1-601. Public institutions of higher education; grants for tuition, room and board, and fees for certain individuals; point of contact.

A. ~~Each comprehensive community college shall and any other associate degree-granting public institution of higher education or baccalaureate public institution of higher education may~~ shall provide a grant for the payment of tuition and fees, except fees established for the purpose of paying for course materials such as laboratory fees, and, if such institution is a baccalaureate public institution of higher education, room and board, for any Virginia student who:

1. a. Has received a high school diploma or has passed a high school equivalency examination approved by the Board of Education and was in foster care or in the custody of the Department of Social Services ~~or is~~ was considered a special needs adoption ~~at the any time such diploma or certificate was awarded~~ after he turned 14; or

b. Was in foster care when he turned 18 and subsequently received a high school diploma or passed a high school equivalency examination approved by the Board of Education;

2. Is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment as a full-time or part-time student, taking a minimum of six credit hours per semester, in a degree or certificate program of at least one academic year in length or in a noncredit workforce credential program in a comprehensive community college;

