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SENATE BILL NO. 792

Offered January 8, 2025

Prefiled December 28, 2024

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.

Patron—Head

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 23.1-204.1 and 23.1-409 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 23.1-204.1. Postgraduation employment rates and other institution-level data.

A. The Council shall annually collect and publish on its website data on the proportion of graduates of each public institution of higher education and each nonprofit private institution of higher education eligible to participate in the Tuition Assistance Grant Program (§ 23.1-628 et seq.) who are employed (i) 18 months after the date of graduation and (ii) five years after the date of graduation. The data shall include the program and the program level, as recognized by the Council, for each degree awarded by each institution; the percentage of graduates known to be employed in the Commonwealth, by degree program and level; the average salary, hours worked, as available, occupation or occupation code, as available, and the average higher education-related debt for the graduates on which the data is based, by degree program and level; rates of enrollment in remedial coursework for each institution; individual student credit accumulation for each institution; rates of postsecondary degree completion; and any other information that the Council determines is necessary to address adequate preparation for success in postsecondary education, alignment between secondary and postsecondary education, and alignment between postsecondary education and workforce preparation. The published data shall be consistent with the Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act (§ 2.2-3800 et seq.) and the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g.

B. The Council shall 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 (§ 23.1-628 et seq.) 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. Such data shall be presented in a user-friendly format so that the user can compare the data clearly and visually.

C. The Council shall disseminate to each public high school and each public institution of higher education and private institution of higher education for which the Council has student-level data a link on its website to the published data published pursuant to subsections A and B.

~~C.~~ D. The Council shall provide a notification template that each public high school may use to annually notify students and their parents about the availability of such the data published pursuant to subsections A and B.

~~D.~~ E. Each public institution of higher education and each nonprofit private institution of higher education eligible to participate in the Tuition Assistance Grant Program (§ 23.1-628 et seq.) shall provide a link on its website to the postsecondary education and employment data published pursuant to subsection subsections A and B and shall make such link available to each admitted student.

§ 23.1-409. Transparency in higher education information.

A. Each baccalaureate public institution of higher education shall maintain and update annually no later than September 30 a tab or link on the home page of its website that shall include the following information:

1. The institution's six-year undergraduate graduation rate for each of the past 10 years;
2. The institution's freshman-to-sophomore retention rate for full-time undergraduate students for each of the past 10 years;
3. The institution's average annual percentage increase in base undergraduate tuition for each of the past 10 years;
4. The institution's average annual percentage increase in mandatory undergraduate comprehensive student fees for each of the past 10 years;
5. A link to the annual report of the use of student fees as required by § 23.1-408;
6. A link to the postsecondary education and employment data referenced in subsection ~~D~~ E of § 23.1-204.1; and

59 7. A summary of the institution's budget, consistent with the institution's annual budgeting process, that
60 includes (i) the major budget units (MBUs) in the institution and standard expenditure categories within each
61 MBU for the current fiscal year and the previous fiscal year or (ii) a link to the annual reports required by
62 subdivision B 11 of § 23.1-1303.

63 B. The Council shall maintain on its website a comparison of each baccalaureate public institution of
64 higher education to each other baccalaureate public institution of higher education on the following measures:

65 1. The middle 50 percent test score range of first-time undergraduate students whose ACT or SAT scores
66 were in the twenty-fifth to seventy-fifth percentiles of the scores of enrolled students;

67 2. The percentage of the students who applied for and were offered first-time undergraduate admission;

68 3. The average and net annual total tuition and fees and room and board for a full-time undergraduate
69 student living on campus;

70 4. Average undergraduate student educational debt;

71 5. The first year to second year retention rates for full-time undergraduate students;

72 6. The four-year, five-year, and six-year undergraduate graduation rates;

73 7. The percentage of students eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant;

74 8. The average wages of undergraduate alumni within the first five years of graduation; and

75 9. The average wages of undergraduate alumni within 20 years of graduation.

76 C. Each baccalaureate public institution of higher education shall maintain a link on its website to the
77 comparison of measures maintained by the Council pursuant to subsection B.