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SENATE BILL NO. 915

Offered January 8, 2025

Prefiled January 5, 2025

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-206.4, relating to school boards; private institutions of higher education; industry and trade dual-enrollment, education, and training opportunities; partnerships permitted.*

Patron—Stanley

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-206.4 as follows:****§ 22.1-206.4. Industry and trade dual enrollment, education, and training opportunities; partnerships with private institutions of higher education.**

A. "Private institution of higher education" means any nonprofit private institution of higher education, as that term is defined in § 23.1-100, whose primary purpose is to provide collegiate, graduate, or professional education and not to provide religious or theological education.

B. Any school board may, upon approval of the Board pursuant to subsection C, enter into a partnership with any private institution of higher education in the Commonwealth for the purpose of expanding industry and trade training and education opportunities for high school students. A school board may enter into such a partnership with a private institution of higher education to (i) establish or expand an existing dual enrollment program through which a high school student may, concurrent with receiving credit toward completion of high school completion, earn credit toward completion of an undergraduate course credit or degree relating to industry or trade, an industry-recognized credential, a career certificate, or a state licensure examination; (ii) expand course offerings available to high school students to receive training or education in industry or trade through sharing resources, including instructional personnel, facilities, or equipment, or through providing online learning courses or programs relating to industry or trade; (iii) provide internship, externship, or job-shadowing opportunities for high school students in industry and trade fields or areas; and (iv) establish any other plan for a partnership to expand and promote hands-on industry or trade education and training experiences, pathways, or opportunities available to high school students, as may be approved by the Board.

C. Any school board seeking to enter into a partnership with any private institution of higher education in the Commonwealth pursuant to subsection B shall submit to the Board a plan detailing relevant information relating to the implementation and administration of the proposed partnership, including (i) a description of the way in which such partnership aims to expand industry and trade education and training experiences for high school students, including (a) any dual enrollment, virtual, or other courses or programs of instructions to be offered; (b) any internship, externship, or job-shadowing opportunities to be offered or established; (c) whether such partnership will involve transporting students off public school property and, if so, transportation plans; (d) any resources that will be shared between the school board and the private institution of higher education including, if such partnership involves any instructional personnel employed by such private institution of higher education providing instruction to public high school students, any information relating to such instructional personnel's background and qualifications as may be requested by the Board; (ii) a description of, if the partnership involves any dual enrollment course or other course or program of instruction, how such course or program of instruction shall be integrated into existing Standards of Learning or high school graduation requirements; (iii) a description of how any such industry or trade education or training opportunity is aligned with current industry or trade standards, expectations, and demands in the Commonwealth; (iv) a detailed timeline for implementation of such partnership and any expected costs for completing such implementation; and (v) such other information as the Board deems necessary and appropriate.

D. The Board shall develop and make available to each school board guidelines and policies for the (i) submission and approval of plans to enter into partnerships with a private institution of higher education in accordance with subsection C and (ii) the implementation and administration of such partnerships.

INTRODUCED

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