

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 23.1-2802 of the Code of Virginia; to amend the Code of Virginia by adding*  
 3 *in Title 23.1 a chapter numbered 21.1, consisting of sections numbered 23.1-2105 through 23.1-2109; and*  
 4 *to repeal § 23.1-2806 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Richard Bland College; governance.*

5 [S 742]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

8 **1. That § 23.1-2802 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is**  
 9 **amended by adding in Title 23.1 a chapter numbered 21.1, consisting of sections numbered 23.1-2105**  
 10 **through 23.1-2109, as follows:**

11 *CHAPTER 21.1.*

12 *RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE.*

13 **§ 23.1-2105. Corporate name; name of the College.**

14 *A. The board of visitors of Richard Bland College (the board) is a corporation under the name and style*  
 15 *of "The Rector and Visitors of Richard Bland College" and has, in addition to its other powers, all the*  
 16 *corporate powers given to corporations by the provisions of Title 13.1 except those powers that are confined*  
 17 *to corporations created pursuant to Title 13.1. The board shall at all times be under the control of the*  
 18 *General Assembly.*

19 *B. The institution shall be known as Richard Bland College (the College).*

20 **§ 23.1-2106. Membership.**

21 *The board shall consist of nine members appointed by the Governor.*

22 **§ 23.1-2107. Meetings; officers; committees.**

23 *A. The board shall meet at the College at least once a year and at such other times as it determines.*  
 24 *Special meetings of the board may be called by the rector or any three members. The secretary shall provide*  
 25 *notice of any special meeting to each member.*

26 *B. A majority of members shall constitute a quorum.*

27 *C. At the first meeting after July 1 in every even-numbered year, the board shall elect from its membership*  
 28 *a rector to preside at its meetings, a vice-rector to preside at its meetings in the absence of the rector, and a*  
 29 *secretary to preside at its meetings in the absence of the rector and vice-rector.*

30 *D. The board may appoint a pro tempore officer to preside at its meetings in the absence of the rector,*  
 31 *vice-rector, and secretary.*

32 *E. Vacancies in the offices of rector, vice-rector, and secretary may be filled by the board for the*  
 33 *unexpired term.*

34 *F. At every regular annual meeting of the board, the board may appoint an executive committee for the*  
 35 *transaction of business in the recess of the board, to serve for a period of one year or until the next regular*  
 36 *annual meeting.*

37 **§ 23.1-2108. Powers and duties.**

38 *A. The board shall (i) appoint all teachers and fix their salaries, (ii) provide for the employment of other*  
 39 *personnel as required, and (iii) generally direct the affairs of the College.*

40 *B. The board may confer degrees and, subject to the provisions of § 23.1-303, approve new academic*  
 41 *programs and discontinue academic programs offered by the College.*

42 *C. All property, property rights, duties, contracts, and agreements of the College are vested in the board.*  
 43 *The board shall care for and preserve all property belonging to the College.*

44 *D. The board shall (i) make regulations and policies as it deems appropriate for the College; (ii) manage*  
 45 *the funds of the College and approve the annual budget; (iii) appoint, remove, and define the responsibilities*  
 46 *for the chief executive officer of the College; and (iv) fix the rates charged to students for tuition, mandatory*  
 47 *fees, and other necessary charges.*

48 **§ 23.1-2109. Courses of study.**

49 *The board shall direct the development and focus of the College's curriculum on preparing students for*  
 50 *academic and career success, including dual enrollment students, students seeking an associate degree, and*  
 51 *students seeking job-relevant skills and credentials. In furtherance of such efforts, the board may:*

52 *1. Broker agreements between and among educational, industry, and nonprofit partners and establish*  
 53 *collaborative, innovative partnership agreements with local school divisions, public and private institutions*  
 54 *of higher education, economic development agencies, employers, philanthropic organizations, veterans*  
 55 *organizations, public agencies, and such other partners as necessary to strengthen and streamline*  
 56 *educational pathways from high school to work-based learning and associate, baccalaureate, and advanced*

57 *degrees that prepare students, including nontraditional students, for continuing education and entry into*  
58 *high-demand fields in the Commonwealth, including careers in Science, Technology, Engineering,*  
59 *Mathematics, and Health Care (STEM-H);*

60 2. *Pilot and implement innovative educational approaches and technologies and promote the*  
61 *development, delivery, and ongoing assessment of innovative, cost-effective degree programs and stackable*  
62 *credentials, including industry-recognized, competency-based credentials that are aligned with and*  
63 *responsive to the educational and workforce development needs of traditional and nontraditional students,*  
64 *including veterans and military personnel, and that advance the economic development needs of employers*  
65 *and industries throughout the Commonwealth; and*

66 3. *Identify and implement new strategies to support economic and community development in the*  
67 *Commonwealth and to expand opportunities for traditional and nontraditional students, including veterans*  
68 *and military personnel, to prepare for careers in high-demand fields.*

69 **§ 23.1-2802. Powers and duties.**

70 A. The board shall generally direct the affairs of the university and Richard Bland College.

71 B. The board may confer degrees.

72 **2. That § 23.1-2806 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.**

73 **3. That the provisions of the first enactment, the second enactment, and the fifth through tenth**  
74 **enactments of this act shall become effective on July 1, 2026.**

75 **4. That Richard Bland College shall submit to the General Assembly no later than December 31, 2025,**  
76 **a report that contains an update on the status of and remaining steps for the transition to the board of**  
77 **visitors of Richard Bland College as set forth in the first enactment of this act.**

78 **5. That notwithstanding the provisions of § 23.1-1300 of the Code of Virginia, the Governor's initial**  
79 **appointments of members to the board of visitors of Richard Bland College, in accordance with §**  
80 **23.1-2106 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, shall be staggered as follows: three members**  
81 **for a term of four years, three members for a term of three years, and three members for a term of two**  
82 **years. After the initial staggering of terms, members shall be appointed by the Governor for four-year**  
83 **terms pursuant to § 23.1-1300 of the Code of Virginia.**

84 **6. That any contracts entered into or rules or regulations adopted by the board of visitors of The**  
85 **College of William and Mary in Virginia on behalf of or related to Richard Bland College pursuant to**  
86 **§ 23.1-2806 of the Code of Virginia, as repealed by this act, shall continue in effect as though such**  
87 **contracts, rules, or regulations were agreed to or adopted by the board of visitors of Richard Bland**  
88 **College in accordance with § 23.1-2108 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act.**

89 **7. That all real and tangible personal property, property rights, duties, contracts, and agreements of**  
90 **Richard Bland College vested in the board of visitors of The College of William and Mary in Virginia**  
91 **shall be, as of the effective date of this act, transferred to and taken as standing in the name of the**  
92 **board of visitors of Richard Bland College.**

93 **8. That, no later than June 30, 2027, the rector of the board of visitors of Richard Bland College shall**  
94 **submit to the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Finance, the Chair of the House Committee on**  
95 **Appropriations, and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations a report**  
96 **providing recommendations on the future of Richard Bland College, including an examination of**  
97 **options for consolidation with another public institution of higher education.**

98 **9. That by June 30, 2028, and June 30, 2029, the rector of the board of visitors of Richard Bland**  
99 **College shall submit to the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Finance, the Chair of the House**  
100 **Committee on Appropriations, and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations**  
101 **an interim report on Richard Bland College's progress in exploring and implementing the**  
102 **recommendations set forth in the report submitted pursuant to the eighth enactment of this act,**  
103 **including information on its progress in key performance metrics, student enrollment and outcomes,**  
104 **and financial sustainability.**

105 **10. That the audit conducted by the Auditor of Public Accounts for the fiscal year ending June 30,**  
106 **2026, shall be the last audit for which Richard Bland College is treated as a consolidated entity of the**  
107 **board of visitors of The College of William and Mary in Virginia. The Auditor of Public Accounts shall**  
108 **submit its audit report on Richard Bland College for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, to the board**  
109 **of visitors of Richard Bland College.**