

26103895D

1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 265**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 9, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 23.1-601 of the Code of Virginia, relating to grants for certain students at*
5 *public institutions of higher education; qualifications.*

6 Patron—Tata

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That § 23.1-601 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**10 **§ 23.1-601. Public institutions of higher education; grants for tuition, room and board, and fees for**
11 **certain individuals; point of contact.**12 A. Each public institution of higher education shall provide a grant for the payment of tuition and
13 mandatory education and general fees, except fees established for the purpose of paying for course materials
14 such as laboratory fees, and, if such institution is a baccalaureate public institution of higher education, room
15 and board, for any Virginia student who:16 1. a: Has received a high school diploma or has passed a high school equivalency examination approved
17 by the Board of Education and was in foster care *in the Commonwealth* or in the custody of the Department
18 of Social Services ~~or was considered a special needs adoption~~ at any time after he turned 14; ~~or~~19 b. ~~Was in foster care when he turned 18 and subsequently received a high school diploma or passed a high~~
20 ~~school equivalency examination approved by the Board of Education;~~21 2. Is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment as a full-time or part-time student, taking a minimum of
22 six credit hours per semester, in a degree or certificate program of at least one academic year in length or in a
23 noncredit workforce credential program in a comprehensive community college;24 3. Has not been enrolled in postsecondary education as a full-time student for more than five years or does
25 not have a bachelor's degree;26 4. Maintains the required grade point average established by the governing board of the institution at
27 which he is enrolled;28 5. Has submitted complete applications for federal student financial aid programs for which he may be
29 eligible;

30 6. Demonstrates financial need; and

31 7. Meets any additional financial need requirements established by the governing board of the institution
32 at which he is enrolled for the purposes of such grant.33 B. The State Board and the Council, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, shall
34 establish regulations governing such grants. The regulations shall include provisions addressing renewals of
35 grants, financial need, the calculation of grant amounts after consideration of any additional financial
36 resources or aid the student holds, the minimum grade point average required to retain such grant, and
37 procedures for the repayment of tuition and fees for failure to meet the requirements imposed by this section.38 C. Each public institution of higher education shall identify at least one employee of the institution to
39 serve as a point of contact for each enrolled student who was in foster care *in the Commonwealth* or in the
40 custody of the Department of Social Services ~~or was considered a special needs adoption~~ in order to provide
41 such student with support and guidance, including support and guidance relating to financial aid and any
42 associated applications or other required paperwork.

INTRODUCED

HB265