

# 2026 SESSION

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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 522**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23.1-210.1, relating to Virginia Private*  
5 *College Preservation and Maintenance Fund and Program established.*

6 Patron—Willett

7 \_\_\_\_\_  
8 Committee Referral Pending  
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10 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

11 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 23.1-210.1 as follows:**

12 **§ 23.1-210.1. Virginia Private College Preservation and Maintenance Fund and Program established.**

13 *A. As used in this section, unless the context requires a different meaning:*

14 *"Certified historic structure" means a building or structure that is (i) individually listed on the Virginia*  
15 *Landmarks Register or the National Register of Historic Places or certified by DHR as meeting the criteria*  
16 *for such a listing or (ii) certified by DHR as contributing to a listed historic district.*

17 *"CICV" means the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia.*

18 *"DHR" means the Department of Historic Resources.*

19 *"Eligible institution" means the same as that term is defined in § 23.1-628.*

20 *"Eligible project" means a renovation, restoration, repair, preservation, or deferred maintenance project*  
21 *at an eligible institution, including projects addressing roofs, envelopes, mechanical systems, life-safety*  
22 *systems, structural integrity, accessibility, and building preservation.*

23 *"Fund" means the Virginia Private College Preservation and Maintenance Fund.*

24 *"Program" means the Virginia Private College Preservation and Maintenance Program.*

25 *B. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Virginia*  
26 *Private College Preservation and Maintenance Fund. The Fund shall be established on the books of the*  
27 *Comptroller. All funds appropriated for such purpose and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other*  
28 *funds received on its behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on*  
29 *moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund,*  
30 *including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain*  
31 *in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of awarding matching grants on a*  
32 *competitive basis pursuant to the Program established in subsection C. Expenditures and disbursements from*  
33 *the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request*  
34 *signed by the Executive Director of the Council or his designee.*

35 *C. In recognition of (i) the value of private colleges to the status and well-being of the Commonwealth's*  
36 *system of higher education, (ii) the current state and level of deferred maintenance at many of the private*  
37 *colleges in the Commonwealth, and (iii) the need to address these issues in order to preserve the rich options*  
38 *for students to pursue higher education in the Commonwealth, there is hereby established the Virginia*  
39 *Private College Preservation and Maintenance Program for the purpose of awarding matching grants from*  
40 *the Fund to eligible institutions on a competitive basis to assist with the funding of renovation, restoration,*  
41 *repair, preservation, and deferred maintenance projects at such institutions, including eligible projects.*

42 *D. The Program shall be administered by the Council, which shall serve as the grant maker and fiscal*  
43 *agent. In administering the Program, the Council shall collaborate with CICV and DHR and shall (i)*  
44 *establish such deadlines, processes, procedures, and forms as it deems necessary or appropriate for the*  
45 *proper administration of the Program, taking into account timelines relevant to the state budgeting process;*  
46 *(ii) for the purpose of efficiency, uniformity, and orderliness, utilize a web-based grants administration*  
47 *system, including WebGrants or any successor system, to receive, evaluate, award, and monitor grants; (iii)*  
48 *require all grant applications from eligible institutions to be coordinated, submitted, and recommended by*  
49 *CICV; (iv) require grant applicants to provide sufficient evidence of matching funds for the renovation,*  
50 *restoration, repair, preservation, or deferred maintenance project in an amount equal to the amount of the*  
51 *grant to be awarded pursuant to the Program; (v) establish clear, consistent, and objective criteria for the*  
52 *grading or ranking of grant applications and consider the establishment of a waitlist in the event that the*  
53 *total amount of requested grant funds exceeds available funds; and (vi) in consultation with CICV and DHR,*  
54 *establish procedures for technical review and project monitoring for projects involving a certified historic*  
55 *structure or a structure determined by DHR to be potentially eligible for certification.*

56 *E. The Council, in consultation with CICV and DHR, shall structure the Program to include an*  
57 *application process that (i) determines eligibility, (ii) reviews scope of work, and (iii) documents completion*  
58 *and closeout. For projects involving a certified historic structure or a structure determined by DHR to be*

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59 *potentially eligible for certification, the Council shall (a) require baseline documentation sufficient for DHR*  
60 *review, (b) provide for DHR technical input on the proposed scope of work and best practices, and (c)*  
61 *provide for project monitoring and closeout documentation as a condition of final payment.*

62 *F. The Council may reserve up to five percent of the Fund annually for reasonable costs of administering,*  
63 *reviewing, and monitoring grants under this section, and may provide a portion of such amount to DHR for*  
64 *costs related to technical review, monitoring, and closeout, thereby holding such agencies harmless for*  
65 *administration of the Program.*

66 *G. The Council may issue guidelines, forms, and procedures necessary to implement this section and shall*  
67 *report annually to the Chairs of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on*  
68 *Finance and Appropriations on awards, project status, and outcomes.*

69 **2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on January 1, 2027.**