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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 996**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 *A BILL to direct the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, in collaboration with the Department*
5 *of Education, to expand the Postsecondary Education Rehabilitation Transition Program.*

6 Patron—Seibold

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9
10 *1. § 1. The Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, in collaboration with the Department of*
11 *Education, shall develop and implement a plan to expand the Postsecondary Education Rehabilitation*
12 *Transition (PERT) Program. In developing such plan, the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services*
13 *shall consult with the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, representatives from public*
14 *schools and postsecondary school programs, students transitioning from high school into postsecondary*
15 *programs and their guardians, and other relevant stakeholders. The purpose of the plan shall be to increase*
16 *the number of students assisted in the transition from high school to postsecondary programs by providing*
17 *clear guidelines on the transition process and helping connect students and their guardians to*
18 *postsecondary programs, including work-based programs, day programs, and independence and life skills-*
19 *based programs. In furtherance of the PERT Program's expansion, the plan shall identify and implement*
20 *methods to (i) equip local community services boards with the resources to assist an increased number of*
21 *students; (ii) publish public online resources to inform and assist those students seeking to transition from*
22 *high school to postsecondary programs, including resources about the transition process such as guidelines,*
23 *requirements, and points of contact for assistance; and (iii) develop an online dashboard to provide*
24 *information about possible postsecondary education programs, with relevant data about the level of support*
25 *provided to students, expectations of the incoming students, skills taught or received, and other standards to*
26 *identify the best fit for the individual transitioning from high school to secondary programs.*

INTRODUCED

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