

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-206.4, relating to school boards;*
 3 *high school students; establishment of goals for completion of certain applications for student financial*
 4 *aid required.*

5 [H 1095]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**8 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-206.4 as follows:**9 **§ 22.1-206.4. High school students; completion of certain applications for student financial aid**
 10 **required; opt-out; exemption.**11 *A. As used in this section:*12 *"High school student" means any public high school student in the Commonwealth.*13 *"Student financial aid application" means the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be*
 14 *submitted to the U.S. Department of Education.*15 *B. Each school board shall annually provide to each high school student and the parents of each high*
 16 *school student in the applicable school division guidance and other informational materials on student*
 17 *financial aid applications for the purpose of promoting awareness of federal and state financial aid*
 18 *programs, resources, eligibility criteria, application deadlines, and other processes and requirements.*19 *C. Each school board shall utilize federally available data to establish a five-year goal for encouraging*
 20 *and increasing the completion of student financial aid applications by high school students during the*
 21 *students' final school year before graduation for the applicable school division as a whole and for each high*
 22 *school in the school division.*23 *D. Each school board shall annually post federally available data relating to student financial aid*
 24 *applications in a publicly accessible location on its website and submit to the Department a report on the*
 25 *progress toward achieving, for the applicable school division as a whole and for each high school in the*
 26 *school division, the five-year goal for encouraging and increasing the completion of student financial aid*
 27 *applications by high school students during the students' final school year before graduation established*
 28 *pursuant to subsection C.*29 *E. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any school board to establish a goal of universal*
 30 *completion of a student financial aid application prior to graduation by each high school student in the*
 31 *school division.*32 *F. No school board or employee thereof shall disclose any personally identifiable information related to*
 33 *the requirements set forth in this section to any individual or entity outside of the local school division,*
 34 *including to any local, state, or federal entity or any constitutional officer, as that term is defined in*
 35 *§ 15.2-1605.2.*36 **2. That the Department of Education, in collaboration with the State Council of Higher Education for**
 37 **Virginia, shall provide to each school board (i) by the beginning of each school year, the website**
 38 **containing federally available data on the rates of completion of student financial aid applications, as**
 39 **that term is defined by § 22.1-206.4 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, by high school**
 40 **students and any other data necessary to assist in implementing and carrying out the provisions of**
 41 **§ 22.1-206.4 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act; (ii) guidance or other informational**
 42 **materials on student financial aid applications, including alternatives to the Free Application for**
 43 **Federal Student Aid such as the Virginia Alternative Student Aid application, for the purpose of**
 44 **promoting awareness of federal and state financial aid programs, resources, eligibility criteria,**
 45 **application deadlines, and other processes and requirements; and (iii) guidance and other**
 46 **informational resources designed to support school boards in making progress toward the five-year**
 47 **goals established pursuant to § 22.1-206.4 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act.**48 **3. That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2031.**