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HOUSE BILL NO. 1277

Offered January 20, 2022

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 23.1-904 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public institutions of higher education; academic credit; education, experience, training, and credentials in Armed Forces of the United States.*

Patron—Freitas

Committee Referral Pending

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 23.1-904 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 23.1-904. Course credit; veterans; active duty military students.**

A. The governing board of each public institution of higher education shall implement policies that provide students called to active military duty during an academic semester with the opportunity to earn full course credit. Such policies shall provide, as one option, that such students who have completed 75 percent of the course requirements at the time of activation and who meet other specified requirements receive full course credit.

B. The governing board of each public institution of higher education shall, in accordance with guidelines developed by the Council, implement policies for the purpose of awarding academic credit to students for ~~educational~~ *education, experience, training, and credentials* gained from service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

C. The governing board of each public institution of higher education shall, in accordance with guidelines developed by the Council, implement policies that recognize the scheduling difficulties and obligations encountered by active duty members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

2. That no later than the beginning of the 2022-2023 academic year, (i) the governing board of each public institution of higher education shall collaborate with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (the Council), the federal Department of Defense, and nationally recognized regional accreditation bodies to map the existing opportunities to earn education, experience, training, and credentials in the Armed Forces of the United States to the award of academic credit in public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth and (ii) in accordance with such collaborative mapping, the Council shall update its guidelines developed and the governing board of each public institution of higher education shall update its policies implemented pursuant to subsection B of § 23.1-904 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act.

INTRODUCED

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