

SENATE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_ HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**DRAFT: BASED ON CONNECTICUT'S PLAN**

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 2.2-225.1, relating to establishing the Virginia Nanotechnology Collaboration Initiative.

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 2.2-225.1 as follows:**

A. The Secretary of Technology shall establish, within available appropriations, a Virginia Nanotechnology Collaboration Initiative (VNCI) to foster industry and university relationships. The Secretary shall support the VNCI by providing:

1. A grant program to provide a flexible source of funding the creation and generation of talent in institutions of higher education and, with appropriate connections to vocational-technical schools and other secondary schools, for student outreach and development. Grants pursuant to this subsection shall be awarded to institutions of higher education and may be used to establish nanotechnology post-secondary education programs and a clearinghouse for curriculum development, scholarships and student outreach.

2. A grant program to provide funding for the promotion of collaborative research applications between industry and institutions of higher education. Grants pursuant to this subsection shall be awarded to institutions of higher education, technology-focused organizations and business entities.

3. Discovery grants, not to exceed fifty thousand dollars, to support post-doctorate or graduate students working with industry on nanotechnology projects under the supervision of faculty members. Each discovery grant shall be matched with a direct or in-kind industry grant in the same amount.

4. Collaborative grants, not to exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars, to support university research teams working with industry on collaborative research projects focused on specific application development. Each collaborative grant shall be matched with an industry grant in the same amount.

25 5. Prototype grants, not to exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars, to enable universities and  
26 companies to demonstrate whether a prototype is functional, manufacturable, and commercially viable.  
27 Each prototype grant shall be matched with an industry grant in an amount equal to two dollars for every  
28 one dollar of such prototype grant.

29 B. The Secretary of Technology shall establish, within available appropriations, a Virginia  
30 Center for Nanoscale Sciences and Development to provide a shared-use laboratory in one or more sites  
31 in the state to advance university research, industry application development and education involving the  
32 synthesis, characterization and fabrication of nanoscale materials, intermediates and devices and related  
33 program activities. The Secretary of Tehcnology shall conduct a feasibility study and business planning  
34 model leading to the establishment of such center, including strategies for securing investments from the  
35 federal government and private entities. On or before January 1, 2008, said office shall submit the  
36 results of such study to the Joint Commission on Technology and Science.

37 C. The Innovative Technology Authority, supported by the Secretary of Tehcnology, shall  
38 provide specialized technical assistance to Virginia nanotechnology companies for the promotion of  
39 nanotechnology in Virginia, including nanotechnology-related workshops and seminars, grant  
40 preparation assistance, marketing assistance, services related to matching grants and other technical  
41 assistance.

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