

# Office of Learning Technology

This Act creates an Office of Learning Technology within the State Council of Higher Education to facilitate and coordinate the voluntary participation of public and private institutions of higher education in the state with technology-enriched initiatives.

The Office is charged with establishing and administering agreements with nonprofit public and private institutions of higher education in the state and other entities for the identification of unmet needs for technology-enriched educational programs and opportunities, and the development and delivery of technology-enriched initiatives, including distance and distributed learning initiatives, for currently served populations and underserved constituencies. In addition, the Office must review technology-enriched learning initiatives and make recommendations to the Council regarding unnecessary duplication of such initiatives; assist in the development of standards for improving access to, training for, and efficiency in such learning initiatives; and enter into contracts for related program development.

Submitted as:

Virginia

Chapter 537 of 2006

Status: Enacted into law in 2006.

## Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1           Section 1. [*Short Title.*] This Act shall be cited as “An Act to Establish an Office of  
2 Learning Technology.”

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4           Section 2. [*Duties of State Council of Higher Education.*] In addition to such other duties  
5 as may be prescribed elsewhere, the [State Council of Higher Education] shall develop a  
6 statewide strategic plan that integrates the strategic plan for technology-enriched initiatives  
7 prepared pursuant to this Act.

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9           Section 3. [*Office of Learning Technology.*]

10           A. An [Office of Learning Technology (the Office)] is hereby established within the [State  
11 Council of Higher Education].

12           B. The [Office] shall

13               (i) facilitate the development of innovative, cost-effective, technology-enriched  
14 teaching and learning initiatives, including distance and distributed learning initiatives, to address  
15 currently served populations and underserved constituencies in the state;

16               (ii) seek to improve cooperation among and between the institutions of higher  
17 education in the state;

18               (iii) seek to improve efficiency and expand the availability of technology-enriched  
19 courses; and

20               (iv) facilitate the sharing of research and experience to improve student learning.

21           C. The [director of the Council of Higher Education] shall appoint a [director for the  
22 Office], who may employ the personnel required to assist the [Office] in the exercise and  
23 performance of its powers and duties. The [director of the Office] shall supervise and manage  
24 such personnel and shall prepare, approve, and submit all requests for appropriations and be  
25 responsible for all expenditures pursuant to appropriations.

26 D. The [director of the Council] shall appoint a [Learning Technology Advisory  
27 Committee (Advisory Committee)] to assist the [Office] in fulfilling its duties. The [Advisory  
28 Committee] shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of business and industry, the  
29 [Council], public and private institutions of higher education, and the elementary and secondary  
30 education community. The state [Secretaries of Education and Technology] shall serve as ex  
31 officio members of the [Advisory Committee]. In making such appointments, the [director] shall  
32 establish a process whereby the institutions that are parties to agreements for the development and  
33 delivery of technology-enriched programs administered by the [Office] may recommend from  
34 among such institutions representatives to the [Advisory Committee]. The members of the  
35 [Advisory Committee] shall serve without compensation and shall not be reimbursed for expenses  
36 incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the [Advisory Committee]. The  
37 [Advisory Committee] shall develop bylaws, not inconsistent with state statutes and regulations  
38 of the [Council], for its own government and for the management of its official business.

39 E. The [Office] shall establish and administer agreements with nonprofit public and  
40 private institutions of higher education in the state and other entities for the identification of  
41 unmet needs for technology-enriched educational programs and opportunities and the  
42 development and delivery of technology-enriched initiatives, including distance and distributed  
43 learning initiatives, for currently served populations and underserved constituencies.

44 F. In addition, the [Office] shall

45 (i) review technology-enriched learning initiatives and make recommendations to  
46 the Council regarding unnecessary duplication in such initiatives;

47 (ii) assist in the development of standards for improving access to, training for,  
48 and efficiency in such learning initiatives; and

49 (iii) enter into contracts for related program development.

50 G. The [Office] shall identify funding sources for the development of educational  
51 opportunities through technology-enriched learning and for other purposes authorized by this Act.

52 F. The [Office] shall submit to the [Council] a strategic plan addressing technology-  
53 enriched learning for integration by the [Council] into the plans for a coordinated system of  
54 higher education required by [insert citation] and an annual report of technology-enriched  
55 learning opportunities currently available through the [Office], the anticipated availability of  
56 those opportunities under development, and information regarding student participation and  
57 success.

58 G. The [Office] is authorized to apply for, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations  
59 from public or private sources to enable it to carry out its objectives.

60 H. All agencies of this state shall cooperate with the [Office], and, upon request, assist in  
61 the performance of its duties and responsibilities.

62 I. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to restrict or alter the authority of institutions of  
63 higher education to engage in technology-enriched initiatives without an agreement administered  
64 or established by the [Office].

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66 Section 4. [*Severability.*] [Insert severability clause.]

67

68 Section 5. [*Repealer.*] [Insert repealer clause.]

69

70 Section 6. [*Effective Date.*] [Insert effective date.]