

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 15.2-4203 of the Code of Virginia, relating to planning district*
3 *commissions.*

4 [S 260]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 15.2-4203 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 15.2-4203. Organization of planning district commission.

9 A. At any time after the establishment of the geographic boundaries of a planning district, the
10 localities embracing at least forty-five percent of the population within the district acting by their
11 governing bodies may organize a planning district commission by written agreement. Any locality not a
12 party to such charter agreement shall continue as a part of the planning district but, until such time as
13 such locality elects to become a part of the planning district commission as hereinafter provided, shall
14 not be represented in the composition of the membership of the planning district commission. Whenever
15 a planning district is created which contains only two counties, the governing body of either county may
16 organize a planning district commission in accordance with the provisions of this chapter if the
17 governing body of the other county does not agree to organize such a planning district commission.

18 B. The charter agreement shall set forth:

19 1. The name of the planning district. An entity organized as a planning district commission under
20 this act may employ the name "regional council" or "regional commission" as a substitute for the name
21 "planning district commission."

22 2. The locality in which its principal office shall be situated.

23 3. The effective date of the organization of the planning district commission.

24 4. The composition of the membership of the planning district commission. At least a majority of its
25 members shall be elected officials of the governing bodies of the localities within the district, or
26 members of the General Assembly, with each county, city and town of more than 3,500 population
27 having at least one representative. In any planning district other than planning district number 23, a
28 town of 3,500 or less population may petition the planning district commission to be represented
29 thereon. The planning district commission may, in its discretion, grant representation to such town by a
30 majority vote of the members of the commission. Other members shall be qualified voters and residents
31 of the district. *In planning district number 4, the membership may also include representatives of higher*
32 *education institutions.* Should the charter agreement, as adopted, so provide, an alternate may serve in
33 lieu of one of the elected officials of each of the governing bodies of the participating localities.

34 5. The term of office of the members, their method of selection or removal and the method for the
35 selection and the term of office of a chairman.

36 6. The voting rights of members. Such voting rights need not be equal and may be weighed on the
37 basis of the population of the locality represented by the member, the aggregation of the voting rights of
38 members representing one locality, or otherwise.

39 7. The procedure for amendment, for addition of other localities within the planning district which
40 are not parties to the original charter agreement, and the withdrawal from the charter agreement by
41 localities within the planning district electing to do so.

42 C. The governing body of any locality which is a member of the planning district commission may
43 provide for compensation to be paid by it for its commission members, except for any full-time salaried
44 employees of the locality. The amount of such compensation shall not exceed the amount fixed by the
45 planning district commission.