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HOUSE BILL NO. 2495

Offered January 10, 2001

Prefiled January 10, 2001

A BILL to amend and reenact § 23-14 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 22.1 a chapter numbered 22, consisting of sections numbered 22.1-356 and 22.1-357, relating to the Peninsula Museum Consortium.

Patrons—Larrabee, Dillard, Hamilton, Morgan and Rapp

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 23-14 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 22.1 a chapter numbered 22, consisting of sections numbered 22.1-356 and 22.1-357, as follows:

CHAPTER 22.**THE PENINSULA MUSEUM CONSORTIUM.**

§ 22.1-356. *The Peninsula Museum Consortium created; region defined; governing board.*

A. The Peninsula Museum Consortium is hereby established and shall hereinafter be referred to as the Consortium. For the purposes of this chapter and the work of the Consortium, the "Peninsula" shall include the jurisdictions lying between the James and the York Rivers, including, but not limited to, the Cities of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, and Williamsburg and the Counties of James City and York. The Consortium shall consist of at least the following museums located on the Peninsula: Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center, Hampton University Museum, Lee Hall, Peninsula Fine Arts Center, The Mariner's Museum, The Newsome House Museum and Cultural Center, The Virginia Living Museum, The Watermen's Museum, Virginia Air & Space Center, Virginia Marine Science Museum, and Virginia War Museum. Other museums located on the Peninsula may join the Consortium upon the approval of the governing board. The governing board of the Consortium shall consist of the chief executive officer of each of the member museums. The region's legislators shall serve as nonvoting, advisory members to assist in the performance of the Consortium's duties.

B. No board members shall receive compensation or reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The board shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from among its members and may provide such rules as it considers appropriate concerning its membership, quorum, and establishment of committees.

§ 22.1-357. *Purpose of the Consortium; functions; authority to apply for and receive gifts and grants.*

A. The Consortium shall serve the school divisions of the Peninsula in providing training to the teachers, administrators and students in the various Standards of Learning for English, social studies and history, science, and mathematics. Further, the Consortium shall be designated an educational institution for the purposes of obtaining operating assistance for providing this function for a percent of its service time to be established in the appropriation act.

B. In the fulfillment of its purpose, the Consortium shall perform the following functions:

1. Coordinate among its members and the school divisions of the Peninsula to develop joint educational initiatives;

2. Establish and deliver, in conjunction with the school divisions of the Peninsula, regional programs to address area education needs, particularly, to assist area schools in meeting the Board of Education's Regulations for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia and to assist area students in achieving passing scores on the Standards of Learning assessments; and

3. Provide technical assistance to the school divisions of the Peninsula in achieving full accreditation, including administrator, teacher, and student training.

C. The Consortium may apply for, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or bequests from public or private sources to enable it to carry out its functions and achieve its purpose.

§ 23-14. *Certain educational institutions declared governmental instrumentalities; powers vested in majority of members of board.*

The College of William and Mary in Virginia, at Williamsburg; the rector and visitors of Christopher Newport University, at Newport News; Longwood College, at Farmville; the Mary Washington College, at Fredericksburg; George Mason University, at Fairfax; the James Madison University, at Harrisonburg; Old Dominion University, at Norfolk; the State Board for Community Colleges, at Richmond; the Virginia Commonwealth University, at Richmond; the Radford University, at Radford; the rector and visitors of the University of Virginia, at Charlottesville; the University of Virginia's College at Wise; the

59 Virginia Military Institute, at Lexington; the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, at
60 Blacksburg; the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind; the Virginia State University, at
61 Petersburg; Norfolk State University, at Norfolk; the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, at
62 Fishersville; the Medical College of Hampton Roads; *the Peninsula Museum Consortium*; and the
63 Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center are hereby classified as educational institutions and are
64 declared to be public bodies and constituted as governmental instrumentalities for the dissemination of
65 education. The powers of every such institution derived directly or indirectly from this chapter shall be
66 vested in and exercised by a majority of the members of its board, and a majority of such board shall be
67 a quorum for the transaction of any business authorized by this chapter. Wherever the word "board" is
68 used in this chapter, it shall be deemed to include the members of a governing body designated by
69 another title.