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**SENATE BILL NO. 1340**

Offered January 15, 2001

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-346.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Advisory Commission on the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.*

Patrons—Maxwell; Delegates: Barlow, Crittenden, Diamonstein, Hamilton and Larrabee

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 22.1-346.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 22.1-346.1. Advisory Commission on the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind; membership; powers and duties; compensation; chairman and vice-chairman; staff.

A. There is hereby established the Advisory Commission on the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, which shall consist of ~~ten~~ *twelve* members to be appointed as follows: five members of the House of Delegates and ~~one~~ *three* citizen ~~member who~~ *members, one of whom* shall be a former student of either of the schools ~~or, one of whom shall be~~ *a parent of a sensory impaired multidisabled student who is currently attending or has attended either of the schools the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled at Hampton, and one of whom shall be a current member of the Board of Education,* to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and three members of the Senate of Virginia and one citizen member who shall be a former student of either of the schools or a parent of a student who is currently attending or has attended either of the schools, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections. Legislative members shall serve on the Advisory Commission until the expiration of their terms of office or until their successors shall qualify. Citizen appointments shall be for terms of four years, except that appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired terms. No citizen member of the Advisory Commission shall be eligible to serve for or during more than two successive four-year terms, but after the expiration of a term of three years or less, or after the expiration of the remainder of a term to which appointed to fill a vacancy, two additional four-year terms may be served by such member if appointed thereto.

B. The Advisory Commission shall (i) monitor the operations of the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind; (ii) advise the Board of Education and submit recommendations that seek to ensure the maintenance of a high quality and cost-effective program of study and a safe and nurturing residential environment at the schools; and (iii) perform any act or function which is in accord with the purposes of this section.

C. Legislative members of the Advisory Commission shall receive such compensation as is set forth in § 30-19.12. Such compensation shall be paid from funds appropriated to the General Assembly for such purposes. All members shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the Advisory Commission.

D. The Advisory Commission shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from among its members.

E. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall designate a staff liaison to coordinate the activities of the Advisory Commission. The Advisory Commission shall meet four times per year or upon the request of its chairman or the Board of Education.

INTRODUCED

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