

041974108

HOUSE BILL NO. 1398

House Amendments in [] — February 10, 2004

A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-206 of the Code of Virginia, relating to urban issues.

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Bland

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 2.2-206 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 2.2-206. Urban issues; report; responsibilities of the Secretary.

A. In order to evaluate and promote the economic potential and development of the urban areas in the Commonwealth, during the first year of each new gubernatorial administration, the Secretary, with the assistance of a cabinet-level committee appointed in accordance with subsection B, shall present biennially in even-numbered years to the General Assembly a report summarizing the major state programs and policies affecting economic growth and stability in these urban areas develop a report on the condition of the state's urban areas and establishing priorities for addressing those conditions. The report shall include results related to the Regional Competitiveness Act (§ 15.2-1306 et seq.). All agencies and institutions of the Commonwealth that have responsibility for urban affairs shall assist in the preparation of this report upon request by the Secretary the following components:

1. A review of economic and social conditions in the cities of the Commonwealth;

2. The identification of inequities between those urban areas experiencing economic growth and relatively low fiscal stress and those urban areas experiencing economic decline and relatively high levels of fiscal stress;

3. The establishment of specific and quantifiable benchmarks for addressing economic and social conditions and inequities within urban areas;

4. Prioritized recommendations for specific actions by state agencies intended to meet the established performance benchmarks within a prescribed schedule; and

5. A system for tracking agency progress in meeting the benchmarks during the succeeding biennia.

B. The Secretary, with the support of the Virginia Liaison Office, shall identify and provide information in the biennial report on federal and private sector sources of funding for projects and programs directed to conditions and opportunities in fiscally stressed urban areas. During the first year of each new gubernatorial administration, the Governor shall issue an executive order creating a cabinet-level committee to assist the Secretary in the development of [~~urban policy~~ an urban policy vision and] priorities for the Commonwealth. The Secretary shall be the chairman of the committee, and the Secretaries of Education, Health and Human Resources, Natural Resources and Transportation shall serve as committee members. The Governor may also appoint representatives of local government from Virginia's urban areas to serve as committee members. During the third year of each new gubernatorial administration the Secretary shall review and report on the performance of each agency in meeting the established benchmarks.

ENGROSSED

HB1398E