

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 2.2-206 of the Code of Virginia, relating to urban issues.*

3 [H 1398]

4 Approved

5 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**6 **1. That § 2.2-206 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

7 § 2.2-206. Urban issues; report; responsibilities of the Secretary.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ENROLLED

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