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HOUSE BILL NO. 22

Offered January 14, 2004

Prefiled November 19, 2003

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-212, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, and 60.2-113 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Governor's Employment and Training Department.

Patrons—Landes and Howell, W.J.; Senators: Edwards and Mims

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 2.2-212, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, and 60.2-113 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 2.2-212. (Effective until July 1, 2006) Agencies for which responsible.

The position of Secretary of Health and Human Resources (the "Secretary") is created. The Secretary of Health and Human Resources shall be responsible to the Governor for the following agencies: Department of Health, Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, Department of Health Professions, Department for the Aging, Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Department of Rehabilitative Services, Department of Social Services, Department of Medical Assistance Services, Advisory Council on the Future of Nursing in Virginia, Council on Indians, ~~Governor's Employment and Training Department~~, Child Day-Care Council, Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, and the Office of Comprehensive Services for Youth and At-Risk Youth and Families. The Governor may, by executive order, assign any other state executive agency to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, or reassign any agency listed above to another Secretary.

Unless the Governor expressly reserves such power to himself, the Secretary shall (i) coordinate the work of state agencies to implement the long-term care policy of the Commonwealth and (ii) serve as the lead Secretary for the Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families, working with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Public Safety to facilitate interagency service development and implementation, communication and cooperation.

§ 2.2-212. (Effective July 1, 2006) Position established; agencies for which responsible; additional powers.

The position of Secretary of Health and Human Resources (the "Secretary") is created. The Secretary of Health and Human Resources shall be responsible to the Governor for the following agencies: Department of Health, Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, Department of Health Professions, Department for the Aging, Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Department of Rehabilitative Services, Department of Social Services, Department of Medical Assistance Services, Council on Indians, ~~Governor's Employment and Training Department~~, Child Day-Care Council, Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, and the Office of Comprehensive Services for Youth and At-Risk Youth and Families. The Governor may, by executive order, assign any other state executive agency to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, or reassign any agency listed above to another Secretary.

Unless the Governor expressly reserves such power to himself, the Secretary shall (i) coordinate the work of state agencies to implement the long-term care policy of the Commonwealth and (ii) serve as the lead Secretary for the Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families, working with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Public Safety to facilitate interagency service development and implementation, communication and cooperation.

§ 60.2-113. Employment stabilization.

The Commission shall take all necessary steps through its appropriate divisions and with the advice of such advisory boards and committees as it may have to:

1. Establish a viable labor exchange system to promote maximum employment for the Commonwealth of Virginia with priority given to those workers drawing unemployment benefits;

2. Maintain a solvent trust fund financed through equitable employer taxes which provide temporary partial income replacement to involuntarily unemployed covered workers;

3. Coordinate and conduct labor market information research studies, programs and operations, including the development, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information on the social and economic aspects of the Commonwealth and publish data needed by employers, economic development, education and training entities, government and other users in the public and private sectors;

4. Determine and publish a list of jobs, trades, and professions for which a high demand of qualified

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59 workers exists or is projected by the Commission. The Commission shall consult with the Virginia
60 Workforce Council in making such determination. Such information shall be published biennially and
61 disseminated to employers; education and training entities, including public two-year and four-year
62 institutions of higher education; government agencies, including the Governor's Employment and
63 Training Department, the Department of Education; and public libraries; and other users in the public
64 and private sectors;

65 5. Prepare official short and ~~long range~~*long-range* population projections for the Commonwealth for
66 use by the General Assembly and state agencies with programs which involve or necessitate population
67 projections;

68 6. Encourage and assist in the adoption of practical methods of vocational guidance, training and
69 retraining; and

70 7. Develop a plan for implementation during times of economic recession, natural disaster or military
71 mobilization whereby necessary workers can be provided.

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