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HOUSE BILL NO. 1958

Offered January 12, 2005

Prefiled January 10, 2005

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-1400 and 2.2-1402 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Minority Business Enterprise; powers.

Patrons—Jones, D.C. and Petersen

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That §§ 2.2-1400 and 2.2-1402 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 2.2-1400. Creation of Department of Minority Business Enterprise; appointment of Director; offices; personnel.

A. There is created within the Office of the Governor a Department of Minority Business Enterprise (the "Department"), which shall be headed by a Director appointed by the Governor to serve at his pleasure. ~~The Director shall also serve as a special assistant to the Governor for minority enterprise.~~ *The Director shall serve as the Governor's principal advisor on issues relating to minority business enterprises, and recommend to the Governor and the General Assembly such policies, legislation, and other actions appropriate to support the growth of minority business enterprises in the Commonwealth. In addition, the Director shall serve as special assistant to the Governor for minority business enterprise policy and shall report directly to the Governor as necessary on minority business enterprise policies.*

B. The Director of the Department shall, under the direction and control of the Governor, exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred or imposed upon him by law and perform such other duties as may be required by the Governor.

C. The Department shall have its main office in Richmond and may have branch offices as may be necessary, as determined by the Director subject to the approval of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade.

§ 2.2-1402. Additional powers and duties of Department.

The Department shall *serve as the lead agency in coordinating the work of state agencies in promoting the growth of minority business enterprise and shall* have the following additional powers and duties:

1. Coordinate as consistent with law the plans, programs and operations of the state government that affect or may contribute to the establishment, preservation, and strengthening of minority business enterprise.

2. Promote the mobilization of activities and resources of state and local governments, businesses and trade associations, universities, foundations, professional organizations, and volunteer and other groups towards the growth of minority business enterprises, and facilitate the coordination of the efforts of these groups with those of state departments and agencies.

3. Establish a center for the development, collection, summarization, and dissemination of information that will be helpful to persons and organizations throughout the nation in undertaking or promoting the establishment and successful operation of minority business enterprise.

4. Within constraints of law and availability of funds, and according to the Director's discretion, provide technical and management assistance to minority business enterprises, and defray all or part of the costs of pilot or demonstration projects that are designed to overcome the special problems of minority business enterprises.

5. Manage the Capital Access Fund for Disadvantaged Businesses created pursuant to § 2.2-2311, and, in cooperation with the Small Business Financing Authority, determine the qualifications, terms, and conditions for the use of such Fund.

INTRODUCED

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