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SENATE BILL NO. 1025

Offered January 12, 2005

Prefiled January 11, 2005

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 37.1-207 of the Code of Virginia, relating to membership of the Substance Abuse Services Council.*

Patron—Newman

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 37.1-207 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 37.1-207. Substance Abuse Services Council.

A. There is hereby established the Substance Abuse Services Council, hereafter referred to in this section as "the Council." The Council shall advise and make recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Board on broad policies and goals and on the coordination of the Commonwealth's public and private efforts to control alcohol and other drug abuse.

B. The Council shall consist of ~~twenty-four~~ 30 members. Four members of the House of Delegates shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and two members of the Senate shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on ~~Privileges and Elections Rules~~, to serve as ex officio members of the Council with full voting privileges. The Governor shall appoint one member representing the Virginia ~~Sheriffs~~ *Sheriffs' Association, one member representing the Virginia Drug Courts Association*, one member representing the Substance Abuse Certification Alliance of Virginia, two members representing the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, and two members representing statewide consumer and advocacy organizations. The Council shall also include the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services; the Commissioner of Health; *the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles*; the Superintendent of Public Instruction; the Directors of the Departments of Juvenile Justice, Corrections, Criminal Justice Services, *Medical Assistance Services*, and Social Services; *the Chief Operating Officer of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control; the Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention or his designee; the Executive Director of the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation or his designee*; the Executive Director of the Commission on the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program or his designee; and the chairs or their designees of the Virginia Association of Drug and Alcohol Programs, the Virginia Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, and the Substance Abuse Council and the Prevention Task Force of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards.

C. Appointments of ~~agency~~ *heads of agencies or representatives of organizations* shall be for terms consistent with their terms of office. All other appointments of nonlegislative members shall be for terms of three years, except an appointment to fill a vacancy which shall be for the unexpired term. The Governor shall appoint a chairman from among the members.

No person shall be eligible to serve more than two successive terms, provided that a person appointed to fill a vacancy may serve two full successive terms.

D. The Council shall meet at least four times annually and more often if deemed necessary or advisable by the chairman.

E. The members of the Council shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

F. The duties of the Council shall be:

1. To recommend policies and goals to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Board;
2. To coordinate agency programs and activities, to prevent duplication of functions, and to combine all agency plans into a comprehensive interagency state plan for substance abuse services;
3. To review and comment on annual state agency budget requests regarding substance abuse and on all applications for state or federal funds or services to be used in substance abuse control programs;
4. To define responsibilities among state agencies for various programs for persons with substance abuse problems and to encourage cooperation among agencies; and
5. To make investigations, issue annual reports to the Governor and the General Assembly and make recommendations relevant to substance abuse upon the request of the Governor.

G. Staff assistance shall be provided to the Council by the Office of Substance Abuse Services of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

INTRODUCED

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