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SENATE BILL NO. 999

Offered January 12, 2005

Prefiled January 11, 2005

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-106 and 2.2-107 of the Code of Virginia, relating to gubernatorial appointments; confirmation processes.

Patrons—Devolites Davis; Delegate: Joannou

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That §§ 2.2-106 and 2.2-107 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 2.2-106. Appointment of agency heads.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Governor shall appoint the administrative head of each agency of the executive branch of state government except the:

1. Executive Director of the Virginia Port Authority;
2. Director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia;
3. Executive Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries;
4. Executive Director of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation;
5. Executive Director of the Motor Vehicle Dealer Board;
6. Librarian of Virginia;
7. Administrator of the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council;
8. Executive Director of the Virginia Housing Development Authority;
9. Executive Director of the Board of Accountancy; and ~~the~~
10. Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth.

However, the manner of selection of those heads of agencies chosen as set forth in the Constitution of Virginia shall continue without change. Each administrative head and Secretary appointed by the Governor pursuant to this section shall (i) be subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, (ii) have the professional qualifications prescribed by law, and (iii) serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

As part of the confirmation process for each administrative head and Secretary, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall provide copies of the resumes and statements of economic interests filed pursuant to § 2.2-3117 to the chairs of the House of Delegates and Senate Committees on Privileges and Elections. For appointments made before January 1, copies shall be provided to the chairs within 30 days of the appointment or by January 7 whichever time is earlier; and for appointments made after January 1 through the regular session of that year, copies shall be provided to the chairs within seven days of the appointment. Each appointee shall be available for interviews by the Committees on Privileges and Elections or other applicable standing committee. For the purposes of this section and § 2.2-107, there shall be a joint subcommittee of the House of Delegates and Senate Committees on Privileges and Elections consisting of three members of each Committee appointed by the respective chairs of the committees to review the resumes and statements of economic interests of gubernatorial appointees. No appointment confirmed by the General Assembly shall be subject to challenge by reason of a failure to comply with the provisions of this paragraph pertaining to the confirmation process.

For the purpose of this section, "agency" includes all administrative units established by law or by executive order that are not (i) arms of the legislative or judicial branches of government; (ii) institutions of higher education as classified under §§ 23-253.7, 22.1-346, 23-14, 23-252, and; (iii) regional planning districts, regional transportation authorities or districts, or regional sanitation districts; and (iv) assigned by law to other departments or agencies, not including assignments to secretaries under Article 7 (§ 2.2-215 et seq.) of Chapter 2 of this title.

§ 2.2-107. Appointment of members of commissions, boards, and other collegial bodies.

Except as provided in the Constitution of Virginia, or where the manner of selection of members of boards and commissions is by election by the General Assembly, or as provided in Title 3.1 or § 54.1-901, but notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Governor shall appoint all members of boards, commissions, councils or other collegial bodies created by the General Assembly in the executive branch of state government to terms of office as prescribed by law. Each member appointed pursuant to this section shall be subject to confirmation by the General Assembly and shall have the professional qualifications prescribed by law.

As part of the confirmation process for each gubernatorial appointee, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall provide copies of the resume and statement of economic interests filed pursuant to § 2.2-3117 or § 2.2-3118, as appropriate, to the chairs of the House of Delegates and Senate

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59 *Committees on Privileges and Elections. For the purposes of this section and § 2.2-106, there shall be a*
60 *joint subcommittee of the House of Delegates and Senate Committees on Privileges and Elections*
61 *consisting of three members of each Committee appointed by the respective chairs of the committees to*
62 *review the resumes and statements of economic interests of gubernatorial appointees. No appointment*
63 *confirmed by the General Assembly shall be subject to challenge by reason of a failure to comply with*
64 *the provisions of this paragraph pertaining to the confirmation process.*