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SENATE BILL NO. 1408

Offered January 19, 2007

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-2622 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Commonwealth Competition Council; powers and duties.*

Patron—Hanger

Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 2.2-2622 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 2.2-2622. Duties of Council; acceptance of gifts and grants; annual report.

A. The Council shall:

1. Examine and promote methods of providing a portion or all of select government-provided or government-produced programs and services through the private sector by a competitive contracting program, and advise the Governor, the General Assembly, and executive branch agencies of the Council's findings and recommendations.

2. Develop an institutional framework for a statewide competitive program to encourage innovation and competition within state government.

3. Establish a system to encourage the use of feasibility studies and innovation to determine where competition could reduce government costs without harming the public.

4. Monitor the products and services of state agencies to bring an element of competition and to ensure a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship to compete with the private sector.

5. Advocate, develop and accelerate implementation of a competitive program for state entities to ensure competition for the provision or production of government services, or both, from both public and private sector entities.

6. Establish approval, planning, and reporting processes required to carry out the functions of the Council.

7. Determine the privatization potential of a program or activity; perform cost/benefit analyses; and conduct public and private performance analyses. The Secretary of Finance shall independently certify the results of the comparison.

8. Devise, in consultation with the Secretary of Finance, evaluation criteria to be used in conducting performance reviews of any program or activity that is subject to a privatization recommendation.

9. To the extent practicable and to the extent that resources are available, make its services available for a fair compensation to any political subdivision of the Commonwealth.

10. Review the practices of government agencies and nonprofit organizations that may constitute inappropriate competition with private enterprise. The Council shall develop proposals for (i) preserving the traditional role of private enterprise; (ii) encouraging the expansion of existing, and the creation of new, private enterprise; and (iii) monitoring inappropriate competition by nonprofit organizations.

11. *Review the procurement process under the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995 (§ 56-556 et seq.) and the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (§ 56-575.1 et seq.) and make recommendations for (i) improving the use and efficiency of process, (ii) releasing information to the public during all stages of the process, and (iii) ensuring accountability on the part of public officials and employees involved in projects under the Acts.*

B. The Council may apply for, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources to enable it to better carry out its objectives. No entity that provides a gift, donation or grant shall be eligible for a contract award that results from action of a Council recommendation.

C. The Council shall not impose unreasonable burdens or costs in connection with requests of agencies.

D. The Council shall annually by December 1 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly and the Small Business Commission created pursuant to § 30-182. The Council may make interim reports to the Governor, the General Assembly and the Small Business Commission as it deems advisable.

INTRODUCED

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