1 **VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER**

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 15.2-2903 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Commission on Local*
3 *Government; state mandates.*

[H 1011]

4
5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**
7 **1. That § 15.2-2903 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**
8 **§ 15.2-2903. General powers and duties of Commission.**
9 The Commission shall have the following general powers and duties:
10 1. To make regulations, including rules of procedure for the conducting of hearings;
11 2. To keep a record of its proceedings and to be responsible for the custody and preservation of its
12 papers and documents;
13 3. To serve as a mediator between localities;
14 4. To investigate, analyze, and make findings of fact, as directed by law, as to the probable effect on
15 the people residing in any area of the Commonwealth of any proposed action in that area:
16 a. To annex territory,
17 b. To have an area declared immune from annexation,
18 c. To establish a town or independent city,
19 d. To settle or adjust boundaries between localities,
20 e. To make a transition from city status to town status,
21 f. To make a transition from a county to a city,
22 g. To consolidate two or more localities, at least one of which is a county, into a city, or
23 h. To enter into economic growth-sharing agreements among localities;
24 5. To conduct investigations, analyses and determinations, in the sole discretion of the Commission,
25 for the guidance of localities in the conduct of their affairs upon the request of such localities;
26 6. To receive from all agencies, as defined in § 2.2-128, assessments of all mandates imposed on
27 localities administered by such agencies. The assessments shall be conducted on a schedule to be set by
28 the Commission, with the approval of the Governor and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, provided
29 that the assessments shall not be required to be performed more than once every four years. The purpose
30 of the assessments shall be to determine which mandates, if any, may be altered or eliminated. If an
31 assessment reveals that such mandates may be altered or eliminated without interruption of local service
32 delivery and without undue threat to the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the
33 Commonwealth, the Commission shall so advise the Governor and the General Assembly;
34 7. To prepare and annually update a catalog of state and federal mandates imposed on localities
35 including, where available, a summary of the fiscal impact on localities of all new mandates. All
36 departments, agencies of government, and localities are directed to make available such information and
37 assistance as the Commission may request in maintaining the catalog;
38 8. At the direction of the Governor, to assist a five-member task force appointed by the Governor to
39 review state mandates imposed on localities and to recommend temporary suspension or permanent
40 repeal of such mandates, or any other action, as appropriate. The Governor shall have all necessary
41 authority granted under § 2.2-113, or any other provision of law, to implement the task force
42 recommendations or may recommend legislation to the General Assembly as needed. The task force
43 shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor and shall serve without compensation.
44 The task force may include city or town managers, county administrators, members of local governing
45 bodies and members of appointed or elected school boards. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall
46 provide assistance to the Commission, upon request. The provisions of this subdivision shall expire July
47 1, ~~2014~~ *2018*; and
48 9. To perform such other duties as may be imposed upon it, from time to time, by law.