CHAPTER 200

An Act to amend and reenact § 2.2-222.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Secure Commonwealth Panel; membership; reporting.

[H 387]

Approved March 1, 2016

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 2.2-222.3 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 2.2-222.3. Secure Commonwealth Panel; membership; duties; compensation; staff.

A. The Secure Commonwealth Panel (the Panel) is established as an advisory board, within the meaning of § 2.2-2100, in the executive branch of state government. The Panel shall consist of ~~33~~ *34* members as follows: three members of the House of Delegates and two nonlegislative citizens to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; three members of the Senate of Virginia and two nonlegislative citizens to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; the Lieutenant Governor; the Attorney General; the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia; the Secretaries of Commerce and Trade, Health and Human Resources, Technology, Transportation, ~~and~~ Public Safety and Homeland Security, *and Veterans and Defense Affairs*, or their designees; two local first responders; three local government representatives; two physicians with knowledge of public health; four members from the business or industry sector; and four citizens from the Commonwealth at large. Except for appointments made by the Speaker of the House of Delegates and the Senate Committee on Rules, all appointments shall be made by the Governor. Additional ex officio members may be appointed to the Panel by the Governor. Legislative members shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office or until their successors shall qualify. Nonlegislative citizen members shall serve for terms of four years. The Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security shall be the chairman of the Panel.

B. The Panel shall monitor and assess the implementation of statewide prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery initiatives and where necessary review, evaluate, and make recommendations relating to the emergency preparedness of government at all levels in the Commonwealth. The Panel shall make ~~quarterly~~ *annual*reports to the Governor concerning the state's emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and prevention efforts.

C. Members of the Panel shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties as provided in § 2.2-2825.

D. Staff support for the Panel and funding for the costs of expenses of the members shall be provided by the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security.

E. The Secretary shall facilitate cabinet-level coordination among the various agencies of state government related to emergency preparedness and shall facilitate private sector preparedness and communication.