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HOUSE BILL NO. 1579

Offered January 20, 2006

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 51.1-1201 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Volunteer Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Service Award Fund Board; membership.*

Patron—Cline

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 51.1-1201 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 51.1-1201. Volunteer Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Service Award Fund Board.

A. The Volunteer Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Service Award Fund Board is hereby created and is to be composed of ~~seven~~ 10 members. The Director of the Virginia Retirement System shall be a member and act as chairman. ~~and the remaining six members shall be appointed by the Governor.~~ The Governor shall appoint three members of the Board from a list provided by the Virginia State Firefighter's Association and three members from a list provided by the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads. Such appointees shall be confirmed by the General Assembly *and shall serve for six-year terms. Two of the appointed members shall serve for initial terms of six years, two for initial terms of four years, and two for initial terms of two years; thereafter, the terms shall be six years.* No Board member ~~other than the chairman appointed by the Governor~~ shall serve more than two full consecutive terms. *The Speaker of the House of Delegates shall appoint two members of the House of Delegates, and the Senate Committee on Rules shall appoint one member of the Senate. Legislative members shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office.*

B. The Director of the Virginia Retirement System with the consent of the Board shall immediately declare the office of any *nonlegislative* member of the Board vacant when he finds that the member is unable to perform the duties of his office or for any reason does not meet the qualifications of this section. The Governor shall appoint a new member, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, to serve for a full or unexpired term whenever the office of a *nonlegislative* member becomes or is declared vacant. In any case where a new appointment is made, the person receiving the appointment shall be a (i) volunteer firefighter representative if his predecessor was a volunteer firefighter representative or (ii) volunteer rescue squad representative if his predecessor was a volunteer rescue squad representative.

C. The members of the Board shall serve without compensation; however, the nongovernmental members may be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Board or in acting in an official capacity for the Board.

D. The first Board appointed shall meet as soon as practicable for the purpose of organizing and electing officers. Officers other than the chairman shall be elected for one-year terms. The Board shall adopt a general statement of policy and procedures. The Board shall meet at least quarterly and at such special meetings as the chairman may call. The chairman may call a special meeting at any time and shall call a special meeting when requested by three or more members of the Board. No meeting shall be deemed a regular or special meeting unless a quorum is present.

E. Members of the Board shall be subject to removal from office only as set forth in Article 7 (§ 24.2-230 et seq.) of Chapter 2 of Title 24.2. The Circuit Court of the City of Richmond shall have exclusive jurisdiction over such removal proceedings.

INTRODUCED

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