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**SENATE BILL NO. 330**

Offered January 13, 2010

Prefiled January 12, 2010

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 26 of Title 2.2 an article numbered 35, consisting of sections 2.2-2699.5 and 2.2-2699.6, relating to the Virginia Council on Military Base and Mission Support.*

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 Patron—Stuart
 

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Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 26 of Title 2.2 an article numbered 35, consisting of sections 2.2-2699.5 and 2.2-2699.6, as follows:**

*Article 35.**Virginia Council on Military Base and Mission Support.*

§ 2.2-2699.5. *Virginia Council on Military Base and Mission Support; membership; terms; chairman; quorum; compensation; staff.*

A. *The Virginia Council on Military Base and Mission Support (the Council) is established as an advisory council, within the meaning of § 2.2-2100, in the executive branch of state government. The mission of the Council shall be to: (i) support and strengthen all United States Department of Defense missions and bases located in Virginia, including the identification and development of solutions to alleviate any deficiencies of the transportation infrastructure serving such missions and bases; (ii) understand the capabilities of all state military installations in order to be supportive of future military growth opportunities in Virginia; (iii) support and encourage expansion of civilian defense contracting entities and agencies supporting the United States Department of Defense, (iv) support local community efforts relating to the realignment and closure of a military base by acting as a liaison between the local communities and the General Assembly; and (v) advise the General Assembly on ways to enhance the defense economy of the Commonwealth.*

*The Council shall be composed of 11 members to be appointed as follows: two members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; two nonlegislative citizens to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; one member of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; one nonlegislative citizen to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; and five nonlegislative citizens to be appointed by the Governor.*

B. *Legislative members shall serve on the Council until the expiration of their terms of office or until their successors shall qualify. Executive branch agency members shall serve only as long as they retain their positions. After the initial staggering of terms, all nonlegislative members of the Council shall be appointed for terms of two years.*

C. *Appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired terms. No nonlegislative citizen member shall be eligible to serve more than two successive three-year terms. The remainder of any term to which a member is appointed to fill a vacancy shall not constitute a term in determining the member's eligibility for reappointment.*

D. *The Council shall annually elect its chairman and vice-chairman from among its members. A majority of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.*

E. *Legislative members shall be compensated as specified in § 30-19.12. All members of the Council shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825.*

F. *The Virginia Economic Development partnership shall provide staff support to the Council.*

G. *The Board shall submit a biennial report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before October 1 of each even-numbered year.*

§ 2.2-2699.6. *Duties of Council; annual report.*

A. *The Council shall:*

1. *Collect information about and become familiar with the concerns and activities of local communities in enhancing and supporting their respective military bases.*

2. *Conduct an analysis of the strengths of each military base and share that evaluation with the council and the affected community.*

3. *In partnership with the Virginia National Defense Authority, conduct ongoing analysis of current and proposed changes to Department of Defense missions and military force structure and alignment.*

4. *Collect effective methods and practices used by local communities to address the issue of military*

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59 *base support and enhancement and disseminate such best practices among affected communities.*

60 *5. Ensure that affected communities and stakeholders are informed of, and invited to assist and*  
61 *support, state-level efforts to affect statewide coordination of information gathering, strategy*  
62 *development, and best-practice sharing.*

63 *6. Educate the Legislature on the importance of supporting legislation relating to the military bases*  
64 *located in the Commonwealth.*

65 *7. Ensure that the council has a presence at the Pentagon and has ongoing dialogue with key*  
66 *Department of Defense officials concerning military bases located in the Commonwealth.*

67 *8. Research and collect best practices and strategies throughout the country with respect to other*  
68 *military communities in order to leverage this Commonwealth's competitive advantage.*

69 *9. Increase public awareness of federal base realignment and closure activities and public investment*  
70 *in preserving the military bases located in the Commonwealth.*

71 *B. The Council shall annually by December 1 report its findings and recommendations to the*  
72 *Governor and the General Assembly.*

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