

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 58, consisting of*  
 3 *sections numbered 30-362 through 30-370, relating to the Commission on Economic Opportunity for*  
 4 *Virginians in Aspiring and Diverse Communities; report.*

5 [H 451]

6 Approved

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

8 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 58, consisting**  
 9 **of sections numbered 30-362 through 30-370, as follows:**

## 10 CHAPTER 58.

11 COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR VIRGINIANS IN ASPIRING AND DIVERSE  
 12 COMMUNITIES.

13 **§ 30-362. Commission on Economic Opportunity for Virginians in Aspiring and Diverse**  
 14 **Communities; purpose.**

15 *The Commission on Economic Opportunity for Virginians in Aspiring and Diverse Communities (the*  
 16 *Commission) is established in the legislative branch of state government. The purpose of the*  
 17 *Commission is to determine the need for and ways to achieve economic opportunities for aspiring and*  
 18 *diverse communities and populations in the Commonwealth.*

19 **§ 30-363. Membership; terms; vacancies; chairman and vice-chairman.**

20 *The Commission shall consist of 13 members that include seven legislative members and six*  
 21 *nonlegislative citizen members. Members shall be appointed as follows: four members of the House of*  
 22 *Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles*  
 23 *of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; three members of the*  
 24 *Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; three nonlegislative citizen members with*  
 25 *expertise in economics, education, and job creation, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of*  
 26 *Delegates; and three nonlegislative citizen members with expertise in entrepreneurship, employment, and*  
 27 *homeownership, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. Nonlegislative citizen members of*  
 28 *the Commission shall be citizens of the Commonwealth. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the*  
 29 *chairman of the Commission and the respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall only be*  
 30 *reimbursed for travel originating and ending within the Commonwealth for the purpose of attending*  
 31 *meetings.*

32 *Legislative members of the Commission shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office.*  
 33 *Nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for a term of two years. Appointments to fill*  
 34 *vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, shall be for the unexpired terms. Legislative members and*  
 35 *nonlegislative citizen members may be reappointed. However, no nonlegislative citizen member shall*  
 36 *serve more than four consecutive two-year terms. The remainder of any term to which a member is*  
 37 *appointed to fill a vacancy shall not constitute a term in determining the member's eligibility for*  
 38 *reappointment. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.*

39 *The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership, who shall be*  
 40 *members of the General Assembly.*

41 **§ 30-364. Quorum; meetings; voting on recommendations.**

42 *A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The meetings of the Commission shall be held*  
 43 *at the call of the chairman or whenever the majority of the members so request.*

44 *No recommendation of the Commission shall be adopted if a majority of the House members or a*  
 45 *majority of the Senate members appointed to the Commission (i) vote against the recommendation and*  
 46 *(ii) vote for the recommendation to fail notwithstanding the majority vote of the Commission.*

47 **§ 30-365. Compensation; expenses.**

48 *Legislative members of the Commission shall receive such compensation as provided in § 30-19.12,*  
 49 *and nonlegislative citizen members shall receive such compensation for the performance of their duties*  
 50 *as provided in § 2.2-2813. All members shall be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses*  
 51 *incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. Compensation to*  
 52 *members of the General Assembly for attendance at official meetings of the Commission shall be paid*  
 53 *by the offices of the Clerk of the House of Delegates or Clerk of the Senate, as applicable. All other*  
 54 *compensation and expenses shall be paid from existing appropriations to the Commission or, if*  
 55 *unfunded, shall be approved by the Joint Rules Committee.*

56 **§ 30-366. Commission on Economic Opportunity for Virginians in Aspiring and Diverse**

**57 Communities Fund.**

**58** There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the  
**59** Commission on Economic Opportunity for Virginians in Aspiring and Diverse Communities Fund,  
**60** referred to in this section as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller.  
**61** All moneys, gifts, grants, donations, bequests, or other funds from any source as may be received by the  
**62** Commission for its work shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned  
**63** on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the  
**64** Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but  
**65** shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of enabling the  
**66** Commission to perform its duties. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the  
**67** State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the chairman of  
**68** the Commission.

**69 § 30-367. Powers and duties of the Commission.**

**70** The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- 71** 1. Provide a demographic analysis of minorities residing in Virginia by locality and educational,  
**72** employment, and economic status;
- 73** 2. Determine the overall and minority population change since the 2010 United States decennial  
**74** census in Virginia and project the minority population change for the decennial census in 2020 and  
**75** 2030 to assess education, employment, housing, entrepreneurship, and job creation needs for minorities;
- 76** 3. Evaluate whether a nexus exists between education, higher education, poverty, familial and  
**77** disparate health status, unemployment, imprisonment, housing patterns, job skills training, access to  
**78** technology, entrepreneurship, and economic opportunities among minorities;
- 79** 4. Assess the impact of federal, state, and local fiscal and economic conditions and social policies on  
**80** economic opportunities for minorities;
- 81** 5. Identify state, local, and community organizations that provide or refer members of aspiring and  
**82** diverse communities to job skills training, angel investments, and other economic opportunities;
- 83** 6. Develop strategies and recommendations to increase and improve economic opportunities for  
**84** members of aspiring and diverse communities in Virginia;
- 85** 7. Collaborate with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Weldon Cooper Center for Public  
**86** Service of the University of Virginia, and other appropriate entities to facilitate the Commission's work  
**87** and mission;
- 88** 8. Solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, grants, donations, bequests, or other funds received by  
**89** the Commission for the purpose of aiding or facilitating its work; and
- 90** 9. Perform such other duties, functions, and activities as may be necessary to facilitate and  
**91** implement the objectives of this chapter.

**92 § 30-368. Staffing.**

**93** Administrative staff support shall be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates or  
**94** the Office of the Clerk of the Senate as may be appropriate for the house in which the chairman of the  
**95** Commission serves. The Division of Legislative Services shall provide legal, research, policy analysis,  
**96** and other services as requested by the Commission. All state agencies shall provide technical assistance  
**97** to the Commission, upon request.

**98 § 30-369. Chairman's executive summary of activity and work of the Commission.**

**99** The chairman shall submit to the General Assembly and the Governor an annual executive summary  
**100** of the interim activity and work of the Commission no later than the first day of each regular session of  
**101** the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the  
**102** Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and  
**103** shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

**104 § 30-370. Sunset.**

**105** This chapter shall expire on July 1, 2019.