

23100317D

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1759**

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 10, 2023

*A BILL to direct the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs to convene a workgroup to study and develop recommendations for implementing a statewide strategic plan to make Virginia the best state for veterans; report.*

Patrons—Reid, Clark, Jenkins, Adams, D.M., Bourne, Bulova, Carr, Delaney, Filler-Corn, Glass, Gooditis, Guzman, Hayes, Helmer, Kory, Lopez, McQuinn, Mullin, Mundon King, Murphy, Price, Roem, Seibold, Sewell, Shin, Sickles, Simon, Subramanyam, Sullivan, Taylor, Tran, VanValkenburg, Ward, Watts, Williams and Williams Graves

Referred to Committee on General Laws

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

**1. § 1.** *That the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs shall convene a workgroup to study and develop recommendations for implementing a statewide strategic plan to make Virginia the best state for veterans. The workgroup shall consist of 10 members to be appointed as follows: the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs or his designee; the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services or his designee; the Adjutant General of the Virginia National Guard or his designee; one member from the Board of Veterans Services; one additional member from the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations; two current members of the General Assembly who previously served as members of the General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus, one to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates and one to be appointed by the Chair of the Senate Committee on Rules; two members who previously served as officers of the General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus, one to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates and one to be appointed by the Chair of the Senate Committee on Rules; and one member of a veterans organization focused on issues related to women veterans.*

*The responsibilities of the workgroup shall include (i) developing a statewide strategic plan that will guide legislation and budget decisions for the next five years; (ii) determining and identifying key performance indicators, quantifiable factors that can be compared with those of other states in determining quality of life for veterans in such states; (iii) assessing Virginia's current key performance indicators against those of other states; (iv) identifying legislative and budgetary recommendations; and (v) creating a scorecard of Virginia's key performance indicators to be presented to the General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus at the first meeting of each regular session.*

*The Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs or his designee shall, as applicable, serve as chairman of the workgroup. As chairman, he shall be responsible for convening meetings, taking and publishing minutes, and reporting the findings and recommendations of the workgroup in a report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology. The workgroup shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2023 and submit such report by the first day of the 2024 regular session.*