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SENATE BILL NO. 1248

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rules
on February 3, 2023)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Lucas)

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 30-310 of the Code of Virginia, relating to MEI Project Approval Commission; board-level gender and diversity requirements.***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 30-310 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 30-310. Review of incentive packages.**

A. 1. *a.* The Commission shall review individual incentive packages, including but not limited to packages offering tax incentives, for economic development, film, and episodic television projects (including but not limited to MEI projects) for which (i) one or more of the incentives in the incentive package is not authorized under current law or an amendment by the General Assembly is being sought to one or more currently existing incentives included as part of the incentive package or (ii) the aggregate amount of incentives to be provided by the Commonwealth in the incentive package including grants, tax incentives such as credits and exemptions, general or nongeneral funds, proceeds from bonds, rights to lease property at below fair market value, or any other incentives from the Commonwealth is in excess of \$10 million in value. However, no review shall be required for a project if the only incentives to be provided to a potential project are nondiscretionary tax credits or exemptions available to any qualified taxpayer under existing law. The Commission shall also review economic development projects in which a business relocates or expands its operations in one or more Virginia localities and simultaneously closes its operations or substantially reduces the number of its employees in another Virginia locality. The Commission shall recommend approval or denial of such packages and projects to the General Assembly. Factors that shall be considered by the Commission in its review shall include but not be limited to (a) return on investment, (b) the time frame for repayment of incentives to the Commonwealth, (c) average wages of the jobs created by the prospective MEI project or other economic development project, (d) the amount of capital investment that is required, and (e) the need for enhanced employment opportunities in the prospective location of the prospective MEI project or other economic development project.

b. The Commission shall not recommend approval of any project for a business that does not meet and commit to maintaining a balanced board of directors based upon gender and racial diversity, such that at least 30 percent of such board of directors shall consist of women and historically underrepresented groups. Any business seeking approval of a project from the Commission shall be required to submit a board diversity disclosure to the Commission that specifies the number and percentage of diverse directors on the board of directors of such business who self-identify as female or represent a national, racial, ethnic, indigenous, or cultural identity in the country of the business's principal executive offices. Such board diversity disclosure shall be updated and submitted annually to the Commission and the Chairs of the House Committee on Appropriations and Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations.

2. *a.* Any time a proposed individual incentive package is to be considered by the Commission, materials outlining (i) the value of the proposed incentives; (ii) assumed return on investment; (iii) the time frame for repayment of incentives to the Commonwealth; (iv) average wages of the jobs created by the prospective economic development, film, or episodic television project; (v) the amount of capital investment that is required; (vi) the need for enhanced employment opportunities in the prospective location of the prospective economic development, film, or episodic television project; (vii) the total amount of state incentives received by the sponsor of the economic development, film, or episodic television project in the past; ~~and~~ (viii) a list of all other existing, nondiscretionary tax credits or exemptions for which the sponsor of the economic development, film, or episodic television project may qualify; and (ix) a board diversity disclosure shall be provided to the staff of the House Committee on Appropriations and Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations not less than five business days prior to the scheduled Commission meeting. Staff shall also be provided with an aggregate list of all discretionary incentives currently committed by the Commonwealth for the next 10 years, including anticipated requests for appropriations to satisfy such commitments during that time.

b. The timing of any request for an endorsement of a proposed individual incentive package should be scheduled so that the MEI Commission could, at its discretion, have up to seven days subsequent to the presentation of the incentive package prior to endorsing or rejecting such proposal.

B. An affirmative vote by four of the seven members of the Commission from the House of Delegates and three of the five members of the Commission from the Senate shall be required to

60 endorse any incentive package, including but not limited to packages offering tax incentives, for
61 economic development, film, and episodic television projects (including but not limited to MEI projects)
62 for which (i) one or more of the incentives in the incentive package is not authorized under current law
63 or an amendment by the General Assembly is being sought to one or more currently existing incentives
64 included as part of the incentive package or (ii) the aggregate amount of incentives to be provided by
65 the Commonwealth in the incentive package including grants, tax incentives such as credits and
66 exemptions, general or nongeneral funds, proceeds from bonds, rights to lease property at below fair
67 market value, or any other incentives from the Commonwealth is in excess of \$10 million in value.
68 Such vote shall also be required to endorse any economic development project in which a business
69 relocates or expands its operations in one or more Virginia localities and simultaneously closes its
70 operations or substantially reduces the number of its employees in another Virginia locality. However,
71 no vote shall be required for a project if the only incentives to be provided to a potential project are
72 nondiscretionary tax credits or exemptions available to any qualified taxpayer under existing law.