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HOUSE BILL NO. 2402

Offered January 21, 1999

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 9 a chapter numbered 50, consisting of sections numbered 9-379, 9-380, and 9-381, relating to the Commission on The Library of Virginia.

Patrons—Morgan, Davies and Murphy; Senator: Walker

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 9 a chapter numbered 50, consisting of sections numbered 9-379, 9-380, and 9-381, as follows:

CHAPTER 50.

COMMISSION ON THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA.

§ 9-379. Commission created; purpose.

There is hereby created, as a legislative agency, the Commission on The Library of Virginia, hereinafter referred to as the Commission. The purpose of the Commission shall be to monitor and assist The Library in fulfilling its mission of serving as the library agency of the Commonwealth, acting as the state's archival agency, and serving as a reference library at the seat of government.

§ 9-380. Membership; appointment; terms.

A. The Commission shall consist of eleven members as follows: three members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; four members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; two citizen members at large, one to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections and one to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and the Librarian of Virginia and the State Archivist, who shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members.

B. The terms of legislative members shall be coincident with their service in the house from which appointed. The citizen members shall serve for terms of four years, their successors shall be appointed for like terms, and vacancies occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the unexpired term.

C. The current membership of the Commission appointed pursuant to SJR 45 of the 1996 Acts of Assembly shall continue to serve as the legislative and citizen members. Any vacancies shall be filled by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections and the Speaker of the House, as appropriate.

Commission members shall be compensated as specified in § 30-19.12 and all members shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

The staffs of the Division of Legislative Services, the Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Appropriations, and The Library of Virginia shall provide such staff support, both administrative and professional, as the Commission may require. The Commission may also obtain such assistance as it may deem necessary from other state agencies and may employ experts who have special knowledge of the issues before it.

§ 9-381. Powers and duties of the Commission.

A. The Commission shall have the power and duty to:

1. Recommend to the Governor and the General Assembly policies, legislation and funding that will not only help ensure the fulfillment of The Library's multi-faceted mission but also support its commitment to preserve and restore its holdings, and to serve those who use its facilities and records;

2. Review The Library's document preservation techniques and archival practices, archival storage and space needs, and preservation efforts, and recommend preservation priorities;

3. Make recommendations regarding the advancement of new technologies that would increase accessibility of Library holdings for citizens throughout Virginia;

4. Encourage the development of programs and curricula within the state's higher education institutions for the training of personnel involved with archival collections; and

5. Review and make recommendations regarding other issues involving The Library, public libraries in the Commonwealth, and archival holdings, as determined necessary.

B. The Commission shall report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly and at such other times as required by the Governor or the General Assembly.

INTRODUCED

HB2402