

The House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism offers the following substitute to HB 470:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Department of Economic Development, so as to create a grant program to support counties
3 and municipalities that are military communities; to provide for legislative findings; to
4 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 The General Assembly finds that Georgia's military installations represent the single largest
8 economic development investment in the state. These installations provide thousands of
9 jobs, both directly and indirectly, to several Georgia host communities. Further, the General
10 Assembly finds that it is in the best interest of these communities and this state to protect and
11 invest in these facilities. In addition, the General Assembly finds that investment into these
12 communities to further the relationship between the military communities and the military
13 installations, as well as any purpose that further integrates such communities and
14 installations, shall be considered a public benefit to this state.

15 **SECTION 2.**

16 Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department
17 of Economic Development, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

18 "ARTICLE 10

19 50-7-120.

20 As used in this article, the term:

21 (1) 'Department' means the Department of Economic Development.

22 (2) 'Federal review' means any review of a military installation by a federal entity for the
23 purpose of determining the viability of such military installation, including, but not

24 limited to, any review directly or indirectly related to the Defense Base Closure and
 25 Realignment Commission.

26 (3) 'Governor's Defense Initiative' means a program operated by the department tasked
 27 with the mission of reviewing the economic development opportunities at and around
 28 military installations and military communities.

29 (4) 'Grant goal' means any project, event, or activity that promotes a military installation,
 30 including, but not limited to:

31 (A) The promotion of recruitment, expansion, or retention of jobs at such military
 32 installation or within the military community in which it is located; or

33 (B) Preparation for any federal review.

34 (5) 'Military community' means a municipality or county that has within its jurisdiction
 35 a military installation or any other municipality or county that after reasonable review the
 36 department determines is economically impacted to a similar degree by the presence of
 37 a nearby military installation.

38 (6) 'Military installation' means a facility owned and operated by United States Army,
 39 Air Force, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard that shelters military equipment and personnel
 40 and facilitates training and operations for such organizations.

41 50-7-121.

42 (a) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, the department shall administer a
 43 grant program to be called the Governor's Defense Initiative for the purposes of providing
 44 assistance to military communities with grant goals.

45 (b) The amount of any grant awarded pursuant to this Code section shall be determined by
 46 the department on a case-by-case review of applications consistent with criteria to be
 47 prescribed by the department which shall include, but not be limited to, a consideration of
 48 the grant goal being proposed and the extent to which it:

49 (1) Furthers the relationship between the military community and military installation;

50 (2) Furthers the military installation's economic development investment into the military
 51 community; or

52 (3) Assists in efforts to defend the viability of a military installation from a federal
 53 review.

54 (c) Each military community shall match funds awarded pursuant to this article. The
 55 department shall prescribe conditions for releasing funds based upon a military community
 56 matching such funds.

57 (d) The department shall be authorized to charge such fees as are reasonable and necessary
 58 to offset costs associated with processing applications submitted pursuant to this article.

59 50-7-122.

60 A military community may submit an application to the department for a grant to assist in
61 the pursuance of a grant goal. Such application shall be consistent with the requirements
62 established and on a form to be prescribed by the department; provided that such
63 application shall clearly communicate how such grant goal contributes to the economic
64 viability of a military installation in a military community.

65 50-7-123.

66 The department shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the
67 purposes of this article."

68 **SECTION 3.**

69 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.