

Senate Bill 395

By: Senators Watson of the 1st, Harbison of the 15th, Walker III of the 20th, Black of the 8th, Jones II of the 22nd and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 10 of Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the Defense Community Economic Development Fund, so as to create the Georgia
3 Joint Defense Commission; to provide for the membership and purposes of such commission;
4 to 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 Article 10 of Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
8 Defense Community Economic Development Fund, is amended by adding a new Code
9 section to read as follows:

10 "50-7-126.

11 (a)(1) There is hereby created the Georgia Joint Defense Commission. Such commission
12 shall consist of 18 members as follows:

13 (A) The chairpersons of the House Committee on Defense and Veterans Affairs and
14 the Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee;

15 (B) The chairpersons of the House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
16 and the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee;

17 (C) Two members of the House of Representatives, one each from the majority party
18 and the minority party, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

19 (D) Two members of the Senate, one each from the majority party and the minority
20 party, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

21 (E) One citizen member from each of the state's eight military installation regions
22 appointed by the Governor;

23 (F) The director of the Governor's Defense Initiative; and

24 (G) The commissioner of economic development or his or her designee.

25 (2) The members of the commission appointed pursuant to subparagraphs (A)
26 through (D) of paragraph (1) of this subsection shall serve two-year terms.

27 (3) The members of the commission appointed pursuant to subparagraph (E) of
 28 paragraph (1) of this subsection shall serve four-year terms, provided that of the initial
 29 appointees, two shall serve an initial two-year term, two shall serve an initial three-year
 30 term, and four shall serve an initial four-year term.

31 (4) The members of the commission appointed pursuant to subparagraphs (F) and (G)
 32 of paragraph (1) of this subsection shall serve the duration of their respective terms in
 33 office.

34 (5) The commission chairperson shall be the director of the Governor's Defense
 35 Initiative. The commission shall meet at such times and places as it deems necessary or
 36 convenient to perform its duties. The commission shall also meet upon the written call
 37 of the commission chairperson or of three of its members. The commission shall
 38 maintain minutes of its meetings and such other records as it deems necessary.

39 (6) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall receive for
 40 each day of attendance at commission meetings a daily expense allowance in the amount
 41 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21, plus reimbursement for actual
 42 transportation costs while traveling by public carrier, or the legal mileage rate for use of
 43 a personal car in connection with such attendance.

44 (7) Members of the commission shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor, President of
 45 the Senate, or Speaker of the House of Representatives, in accordance with who
 46 appointed them.

47 (b) The Georgia Joint Defense Commission shall:

48 (1) Advise the Governor and the General Assembly on defense and military issues within
 49 the state and nationally;

50 (2) Make recommendations regarding policies and plans to support the long-term
 51 viability and development of the military, both active and civilian, in this state;

52 (3) Develop methods to assist defense-dependent communities in the design and
 53 execution of programs that enhance each community's relationship with military
 54 installations and defense-related business;

55 (4) Serve as a task force to seek advice on and prepare for potential base realignment or
 56 closure of military installations in the state;

57 (5) Develop and implement a plan to navigate potential base realignment or closure of
 58 military installations studies and proceedings; and

59 (6) Produce and distribute a detailed report no later than December 1, 2018, and annually
 60 thereafter, regarding the status of the state's military installations, as well as a strategic
 61 plan for navigating any potential base realignment or closure of military installations in
 62 the state. Such annual reports shall be distributed to the Governor and the General
 63 Assembly and shall be made publicly available.

64 (c) Staff of the department shall provide administrative support for the Georgia Joint
65 Defense Commission."

66 **SECTION 2.**

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