

The House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism offers the following substitute to SB 395:

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 repeal the Defense Community Economic  
3 Development Fund; to create the Georgia Joint Defense Commission; to provide for  
4 appointments, terms of office, compensation, and duties; to provide for administrative  
5 support; to create the Defense Community Economic Development Grant Program; to  
6 provide for the transfer of funds; to provide for an application process and procedures; to  
7 provide for rules and regulations; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters;  
8 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 SECTION 1.  
11 Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department  
12 of Economic Development, is amended by repealing Article 10, relating to the Defense  
13 Community Economic Development Fund, and replacing it with a new article to read as  
14 follows:

15 "ARTICLE 10  
16 PART 1

17 50-7-120.  
18 (a) There is hereby created the Georgia Joint Defense Commission, which shall consist  
19 of 18 members as follows:  
20 (1) The chairperson of the Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee;  
21 (2) The chairperson of the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee;  
22 (3) Four members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
23 House of Representatives;

- 24 (4) Two members of the Senate, one each from the majority party and the minority party,  
25 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;
- 26 (5) One citizen member from each of the state's eight military installation regions  
27 appointed by the Governor;
- 28 (6) The director of the Governor's Defense Initiative; and
- 29 (7) The commissioner of the Department of Economic Development or his or her  
30 designee.
- 31 (b)(1) The members of the commission appointed pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (4)  
32 of subsection (a) of this Code section shall serve two-year terms.
- 33 (2) The members of the commission appointed pursuant to paragraph (5) of subsection  
34 (a) of this Code section shall serve four-year terms, provided that of the initial appointees,  
35 two shall serve an initial two-year term, two shall serve an initial three-year term, and  
36 four shall serve an initial four-year term.
- 37 (3) The members of the commission appointed pursuant to paragraphs (6) and (7) of  
38 subsection (a) of this Code section shall serve the duration of their respective terms in  
39 office.
- 40 (c) The commission chairperson shall be the director of the Governor's Defense Initiative.  
41 The commission shall meet at such times and places as it deems necessary or convenient  
42 to perform its duties. The commission shall also meet upon the written call of the  
43 commission chairperson or of three of its members. The commission shall maintain  
44 minutes of its meetings and such other records as it deems necessary.
- 45 (d)(1) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall receive  
46 for each day of attendance at commission meetings a daily expense allowance in the  
47 amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21, plus reimbursement for  
48 actual transportation costs while traveling by public carrier, or the legal mileage rate for  
49 use of a personal car in connection with such attendance.
- 50 (2) The daily expense allowance and reimbursement of transportation costs provided for  
51 by this subsection:
- 52 (A) Shall be paid by funds appropriated to the Department of Economic Development;  
53 and
- 54 (B) Shall not be received by any member of the commission for more than five days  
55 unless additional days are authorized by the Governor.
- 56 (e) Members of the commission shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor, President of  
57 the Senate, or Speaker of the House of Representatives, in accordance with who appointed  
58 them.

59 50-4-121.

60 The Georgia Joint Defense Commission shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

77 50-4-122.

78 Staff of the Department of Economic Development shall provide administrative support  
 79 for the Georgia Joint Defense Commission.

80 PART 2

81 50-4-130.

82 As used in this part, the term:

83 (1) 'Federal review' means any review of a military installation by a federal entity for the  
 84 purpose of determining the viability of such military installation, including, but not  
 85 limited to, any review directly or indirectly related to the Defense Base Closure and  
 86 Realignment Commission.

87 (2) 'Grant goal' means any project, event, or activity that promotes a military installation,  
 88 including, but not limited to:

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

91 (B) Preparation for any federal review.

92 (3) 'Military community' means a municipality or county that has within its jurisdiction  
 93 a military installation or any other municipality or county that after reasonable review the  
 94 Department of Economic Development determines is economically impacted to a similar  
 95 degree by the presence of a nearby military installation.

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

99 (5) 'Public official' shall have the same meaning as in Code Section 50-36-2 or 2 U.S.C.  
 100 Section 1602.

101 (6) 'Registered lobbyist' means a lobbyist as defined by Code Section 21-5-70 or 2  
 102 U.S.C. Section 1602.

103 (7) 'Workforce development division' means the division, branch, or department of the  
 104 Department of Economic Development that serves the primary function of facilitating  
 105 workforce development.

106 50-4-131.

107 (a) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, the workforce development  
 108 division shall administer a grant program to be called the Defense Community Economic  
 109 Development Grant Program, which shall serve the purpose of awarding grants to assist  
 110 military communities with grant goals.

111 (b) The workforce development division shall administer such program and such  
 112 program's associated funds pursuant to the policies and methods of implementation  
 113 promulgated by the Georgia Joint Defense Commission and the Governor.

114 (c) All funds that were appropriated for the provision of the Defense Community  
 115 Economic Development Fund shall be transferred to the workforce development division  
 116 for the provision of the Defense Community Economic Development Grant Program.

117 50-4-132.

118 (a) The amount of any grant awarded pursuant to this part shall be determined by the  
 119 workforce development division on a case-by-case review of applications consistent with  
 120 criteria to be prescribed by the Georgia Joint Defense Commission which shall include, but  
 121 not be limited to, a consideration of the grant goal being proposed and the extent to which  
 122 it:

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

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

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

128 (b) Each military community shall be required as a condition of receipt of any grant  
129 awarded pursuant to this part to match such awarded funds. The workforce development  
130 division shall prescribe conditions for releasing grant funds based upon a military  
131 community matching such funds.

132 (c) The workforce development division shall be authorized to charge such fees as are  
133 reasonable and necessary to offset costs associated with processing applications submitted  
134 pursuant to this part.

135 50-4-133.

136 Any military community may submit an application to the workforce development division  
137 for a grant to assist in the pursuance of a grant goal. Such application shall be submitted  
138 on a form and in a manner to be prescribed by the workforce development division. Each  
139 application shall, at a minimum, include a statement from the military community applying  
140 for such grant as to how such grant goal will contribute to the economic viability of the  
141 military installation within such military community.

142 50-4-134.

143 Grant funds awarded pursuant to this part shall not be utilized to contract with, compensate,  
144 or reimburse a registered lobbyist.

145 50-4-135.

146 The workforce development division shall submit a copy of all approved applications to  
147 the Georgia Joint Defense Commission.

148 50-4-136.

149 The workforce development division shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to  
150 implement the purposes of this part."

151 **SECTION 3.**

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