

Senate Bill 398

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Robertson of the 29th, Walker III of the 20th, Watson of the 1st, Anderson of the 24th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 5 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the Georgia Joint Defense Commission, so as to revise the commission's
3 operations; to expand the commission's membership; to revise the term lengths of
4 commission members; to provide that the Department of Economic Development shall
5 assume certain responsibilities with regard to the commission in lieu of the Technical
6 College System of Georgia; to expand the scope of responsibilities of the commission; to
7 revise reporting requirements; to revise definitions; to amend Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the
8 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department of Economic Development,
9 so as to authorize the Department of Economic Development to assist the Georgia Joint
10 Defense Commission in certain activities; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
11 laws; and for other purposes.

12 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

13 **SECTION 1.**

14 Article 5 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
15 Georgia Joint Defense Commission, is amended by revising Part 1 as follows:

S. B. 398

- 1 -

"Part 1

20-4-120.

(a) There is hereby created the Georgia Joint Defense Commission, which shall consist of ~~19~~ 22 members as follows:

(1) The chairperson of the Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee;

(2) The chairperson of the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee;

(3) Four members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(4) Two members of the Senate, one each from the majority party and the minority party, to be appointed by the ~~Lieutenant Governor~~ President of the Senate;

(5) One citizen member from each of the state's eight military installation regions to be appointed by the Governor;

(6) The ~~director of the Governor's Defense Initiative~~ commissioner of the Department of Economic Development or his or her designee;

(7) The chancellor of the University System of Georgia or his or her designee;

(8) One representative of a defense industry contractor to be appointed by the President of the Senate;

(9) One representative of a public or private organization engaged in military or defense research to be appointed by the Governor;

~~(7)~~ (10) The adjutant general of the Georgia National Guard or his or her designee; and

~~(8)~~ (11) The commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia or his or her designee.

(b)(1) The members of the commission appointed pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (4) and (6), (7), (10), and (11) of subsection (a) of this Code section shall serve ~~two-year~~ terms concurrent with their terms of office.

(2) The members of the commission appointed pursuant to ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs (5), (8), and (9) of subsection (a) of this Code section shall serve four-year terms, ~~provided that of the initial appointees, two shall serve an initial two-year term, two shall serve an initial three-year term, and four shall serve an initial four-year term.~~

~~(3) The members of the commission appointed pursuant to paragraphs (6) and (7) of subsection (a) of this Code section shall serve the duration of their respective terms in office.~~

(c) The commission chairperson shall be the ~~director of the Governor's Defense Initiative~~ commissioner of the Department of Economic Development or his or her designee. The commission shall meet at such times and places as it deems necessary or convenient to perform its duties. The commission shall also meet upon the written call of the commission chairperson or of three of its members. The commission shall maintain minutes of its meetings and such other records as it deems necessary.

(d)(1) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall receive for each day of attendance at commission meetings a daily expense allowance in the amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21, plus reimbursement for actual transportation costs while traveling by public carrier, or the legal mileage rate for use of a personal car in connection with such attendance.

(2) The daily expense allowance and reimbursement of transportation costs provided for by this subsection:

(A) Shall be paid by funds appropriated to the ~~Technical College System of Georgia~~ Department of Economic Development; and

(B) Shall not be received by any member of the commission for more than five days unless additional days are authorized by the Governor.

(e) Appointed Members ~~members~~ of the commission shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor, President of the Senate, or Speaker of the House of Representatives, in accordance with who appointed them.

20-4-121.

The Georgia Joint Defense Commission shall:

- (1) Advise the Governor and the General Assembly on ~~defense and military~~ issues relating to the military, the defense industry, defense research and technology, military families, and veterans affairs within the state and nationally;
- (2) Make recommendations regarding policies and plans to support the long-term viability and development of the defense industry and the military, both active and civilian, in this state;
- (3) Develop methods to assist defense-dependent communities in the design and execution of programs that enhance each community's relationship with military installations and ~~defense-related business~~ the defense industry;
- (4) Serve as a task force to seek advice on and prepare for potential base realignment or closure of military installations in the state;
- (5) Develop and implement a plan to navigate potential base realignment or closure of military installations studies and proceedings; and
- (6) Produce and distribute a detailed annual report no later than December 1; each year ~~2018, and annually thereafter~~; regarding the status of the state's defense industry, defense research efforts, and military installations, as well as a strategic plan for navigating any potential base realignment or closure of military installations in the state. Such annual reports shall be distributed to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the General Assembly and shall be made publicly available.

20-4-122.

Staff of the ~~Technical College System of Georgia~~ Department of Economic Development shall provide administrative support for the Georgia Joint Defense Commission."

SECTION 2.

Said article is further amended by revising Part 2 as follows:

"Part 2

20-4-130.

As used in this part, the term:

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

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

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

(B) Preparation for any federal review.

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

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

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

117 20-4-131.

118 (a) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, the commissioner of the ~~Technical~~
119 ~~College System of Georgia~~ Department of Economic Development shall administer a grant
120 program to be called the Defense Community Economic Development Grant Program,
121 which shall serve the purpose of awarding grants to assist military communities with grant
122 goals.

123 (b) The commissioner of the ~~Technical College System of Georgia~~ Department of
124 Economic Development shall administer such program and such program's associated
125 funds.

126 (c) All funds that were appropriated for the provision of the Defense Community
127 Economic Development Fund shall be transferred to the ~~workforce development division~~
128 Department of Economic Development for the provision of the Defense Community
129 Economic Development Grant Program.

130 20-4-132.

131 (a) The amount of any grant awarded pursuant to this part shall be determined by the
132 commissioner of the ~~Technical College System of Georgia~~ Department of Economic
133 Development on a case-by-case review of applications which shall include, but shall not
134 be limited to, a consideration of the grant goal being proposed and the extent to which it:

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

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

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

140 (b) Each military community shall be required as a condition of receipt of any grant
141 awarded pursuant to this part to match such awarded funds. The commissioner of the
142 ~~Technical College System of Georgia~~ Department of Economic Development shall

143 prescribe conditions for releasing grant funds based upon a military community matching
144 such funds.

145 (c) The commissioner of the ~~Technical College System of Georgia~~ Department of
146 Economic Development shall be authorized to charge such fees as are reasonable and
147 necessary to offset costs associated with processing applications submitted pursuant to this
148 part.

149 20-4-133.

150 Any military community may submit an application to the commissioner of the ~~Technical~~
151 ~~College System of Georgia~~ Department of Economic Development for a grant to assist in
152 the pursuance of a grant goal. Such application shall be submitted on a form and in a
153 manner to be prescribed by the commissioner of the ~~Technical College System of Georgia~~
154 Department of Economic Development. Each application shall, at a minimum, include a
155 statement from the military community applying for such grant as to how such grant goal
156 will contribute to the economic viability of the military installation within such military
157 community.

158 20-4-134.

159 The commissioner of the ~~Technical College System of Georgia~~ Department of Economic
160 Development shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the purposes
161 of this ~~part~~ article."

162 SECTION 3.

163 Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department
164 of Economic Development, is amended by revising Article 10, which is reserved, as follows:

165 "ARTICLE 10

166 50-7-120.

167 ~~Reserved.~~ The Department of Economic Development is authorized to administer and
168 support the activities of the Georgia Joint Defense Commission in accordance with Article
169 5 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated."

170 **SECTION 4.**

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