

Regular Session, 2012

ACT No. 810

HOUSE BILL NO. 936

BY REPRESENTATIVE DANA HAY AND SENATOR JOHN SMITH

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 36:109(V) and Subpart B of Part I of Chapter 1 of Title 29 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 29:61 through 68, relative to military forces; to create the Louisiana Military Advisory Council within the Department of Economic Development; to provide for the membership of the council and its officers; to provide for terms of office for the members of the council; to provide relative to compensation and expenses for council members; to provide the powers and duties of the council; to require the establishment of working groups; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 36:109(V) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§109. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department of Economic Development

* * *

V. The Louisiana Military Advisory Council (R.S. 29:61 et seq.) is placed within the Department of Economic Development and shall perform and exercise their powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities as provided by law.

Section 2. Subpart B of Part I of Chapter 1 of Title 29 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 29:61 through 68, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

SUBPART B. LOUISIANA MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

§61. Name; creation

The Louisiana Military Advisory Council is hereby established within the Louisiana Department of Economic Development.

1 §62. Membership; officers, and terms of office

2 A. The council shall be composed of twenty-five members.

3 (1) Six members of the council shall be comprised as follows:

4 (a) The governor of Louisiana, or his designee.

5 (b) The adjutant general of Louisiana, or his designee.

6 (c) The president of the Louisiana State Senate, or a state senator designated
7 by the president.

8 (d) The speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, or a state
9 representative designated by the speaker.

10 (e) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development, or his
11 designee.

12 (f) The secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or his designee.

13 (2) The governor shall appoint nineteen members in accordance with the
14 following provisions:

15 (a) The chair of the Louisiana Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

16 (b) The president of Barksdale Forward, or an advocate for Barksdale Air
17 Force Base.

18 (c) The president of Fort Polk Progress, or an advocate for Fort Polk
19 Progress.

20 (d) The president of Callendar Commitment, or an advocate for the Naval
21 Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chasse, Louisiana, and constituent units.

22 (e) The chair of the New Orleans Mayor's Military Advisory Council, or an
23 advocate for the Marine Corps Support Facility located in New Orleans, Louisiana,
24 or for the United States Coast Guard Eighth District, or for the United States Army
25 Corps of Engineers.

26 (f) Five members shall be appointed from retired flag, general, or O-6
27 officers, or a command sergeant major representing each of the armed services,
28 national guard, and the reserves.

29 (3) Nine members shall be appointed at-large and shall be representative of
30 national defense and homeland security businesses with operations in Louisiana,

1 elected officials of an installation community, or president of a regional economic
2 development organization.

3 B.(1) The five retired military personnel members appointed by the governor
4 shall serve staggered terms so that two appointments shall expire at two years, one
5 appointment shall expire at three years, and two appointments shall expire at four
6 years, from the dates of initial appointment.

7 (2) The nine at-large members appointed by the governor shall serve
8 staggered terms so that three appointments shall expire at two years, three
9 appointments shall expire at three years, and three shall expire at four years, from the
10 dates of initial appointment.

11 (3) Thereafter, each appointment shall serve a four-year term.

12 C. A vacancy on the council shall be filled in the same manner as the
13 original appointment.

14 D. The governor shall appoint the chair and vice chair of the council from
15 its membership. All other officers as deemed necessary by the council shall be
16 elected from its membership.

17 E. There shall be an executive director, appointed by the governor, who shall
18 provide administrative and staff support for the council. The executive director shall
19 have authority to contract for services, expend funds, and operate the normal
20 business activities of the commission.

21 §63. Meetings; quorum

22 The council shall meet biannually and at any other time that the chair may
23 deem necessary to call a meeting of the council.

24 §64. Compensation

25 A. Council members and military liaisons shall not receive additional
26 compensation or a per diem from the office of the governor for serving on the board.

27 B. Council members who are employees or elected public officials of the
28 state of Louisiana or a political subdivision of the state of Louisiana may seek
29 reimbursement of travel expenses from their employing department, agency, office,
30 or elected office, in accordance with office of state purchasing travel guide PPM 49.

1 C. Any member of the council who is also a member of the Louisiana
2 Legislature may seek per diem from the Senate or House of Representatives, as
3 appropriate, for their attendance at board meetings or services rendered on behalf of
4 the board.

5 §65. Duties and powers

6 A. The duties and objectives of the members of the council shall include but
7 are not limited to the following:

8 (1) Provide a public forum for issues concerning the installations and units
9 of the armed forces located in Louisiana and the military and retired military
10 personnel and their families who reside in Louisiana.

11 (2) Formulate goals and objectives to enhance cooperation, coordination,
12 communication, and understanding among the military, United States Department
13 of Defense, the Louisiana congressional delegation, the communities in the state
14 interfacing with the military, and state and local government agencies.

15 (3) Study and determine the means to increase and strengthen the state's
16 support to the armed forces of the United States located within the state.

17 (4) Review and disseminate information about proposed legislation related
18 to and directly impacting the military communities within the state.

19 (5) Propose and sponsor activities, legislation, initiatives, programs, or
20 projects which support and enhance the military's activities within the state or which
21 enhance or improve the quality of life for the military communities.

22 (6) Collect information about and become familiar with the concerns and
23 activities of local communities in enhancing and supporting their respective military
24 bases.

25 (7) Conduct an analysis of the strengths of each military base and share the
26 evaluation with the affected community.

27 (8) In partnership with the Department of Economic Development and local
28 communities, conduct ongoing analyses of current and proposed changes to the
29 mission and military force structure and alignment of the United States Department
30 of Defense.

1 (9) Identify the most effective methods and practices used by local
2 communities to address the issue of military base support and enhancement and
3 disseminate such best practices among affected communities.

4 (10) Ensure that affected communities and stakeholders are informed of and
5 invited to assist and support state-level efforts to affect statewide coordination of
6 information gathering, strategy development, and the sharing of best practices.

7 (11) Educate the legislature on the importance of supporting legislation
8 relating to the state's military bases.

9 (12) Ensure that the council is strategically positioned to interface with
10 decision makers in the executive branch of the federal government, national and state
11 homeland security agencies, intelligence agencies, and the United States Congress,
12 concerning the state's military installations and major units.

13 (13) Research and identify best practices and strategies throughout the
14 country with respect to other military communities in order to leverage the state's
15 competitive advantage.

16 (14) Increase public awareness of the presence and value of United States
17 military installations and their missions in Louisiana and public investment in
18 supporting the state's military bases.

19 B. The council shall submit an annual report on the first day of January to
20 the governor to provide the status of and progress achieved on the issues addressed
21 in Subsection A of this Section.

22 C. The council shall make, or cause to be made, all such studies, reviews, or
23 analysis which it finds necessary to effect the duties and objectives expressed above,
24 including but not limited to a quadrennial statewide and regional military economic
25 impact analysis.

26 D. For purposes of this Section, "military" shall mean the Active National
27 Guard, Reserve, and retired military personnel from any branch of the military.

1 §66. Funding and expenses

2 The council may receive and expend funds made available from any source,
3 including donations or gifts of money or services from public or private
4 organizations, to be utilized for the purposes of the council.

5 §67. Working groups

6 A. The council shall establish the following working groups:

7 (1) Military Sustainment Working Group.

8 (a) The Military Sustainment Working Group shall interface directly with
9 military installation and command leadership on matters related to mission
10 sustainment, quality of life, installation operations, and community and state
11 relations.

12 (b) The Military Sustainment Working Group shall meet regularly, no less
13 than eight times annually, and at the call of the chair.

14 (c) The Military Sustainment Working Group shall receive, collate,
15 prioritize, and present to the council no less than twice annually the key initiatives
16 derived from Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph.

17 (d) The Military Sustainment Working Group will report no less than twice
18 annually to the council on recommendations to optimize conditions in Subparagraph
19 (a) of this Paragraph and a strategic plan to achieve optimal conditions.

20 B. The council may create working groups composed of council members,
21 stakeholders, and non-council members, which meet in accordance with the open
22 meetings laws, as provided for in R.S. 42:12, et seq.

23 §68. Coordination; state government

24 All departments, commissions, boards, offices, entities, agencies, and officers
25 of the state of Louisiana, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and
26 directed to cooperate with the council in implementing the provisions of this Subpart.

27 Section 3.(A) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to change the
28 heading of Part 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 29 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 from
29 "GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR MILITARY FORCES OF THE STATE" to "MILITARY
30 FORCES OF THE STATE".

1 (B) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to create a Subpart A within
2 Part 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 29 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 with a heading
3 "SUBPART A. GENERAL PROVISIONS" to be comprised of Revised Statutes 29:1
4 through 42.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____