

CHAPTER 469

(House Bill 1320)

AN ACT concerning

Joint Committee on Base Realignment and Closure

FOR the purpose of creating the Joint Committee on Base Realignment and Closure; establishing the membership and duties of the Committee; designating the cochairs of the Committee; requiring the Department of Legislative Services to provide staff assistance to the Committee; and generally relating to the Joint Committee on Base Realignment and Closure.

BY adding to

Article – State Government

Section 2-10A-11

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The federal government recently completed the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) review process, determining which military operations would be consolidated throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, The State will receive an estimated 40,000 to 60,000 new civilian and military jobs at and around Aberdeen Proving Ground in Harford County and Fort Meade in Anne Arundel County; and

WHEREAS, The State is expected to receive an estimated 25,000 new households as a result of the BRAC process; and

WHEREAS, This is an extraordinary economic development opportunity for the region and the State; and

WHEREAS, Many policy issues, such as land use and transportation decisions, will need to be addressed regionally and statewide; and

WHEREAS, Many concerns have already been raised regarding housing availability, transportation infrastructure, educational opportunities, and water and sewer infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, It is vital that the State legislature implement programs and processes to expedite and accelerate planning and development so that the region and the State are prepared to receive the influx of jobs and personnel associated with BRAC; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – State Government

2-10A-11.

(A) THERE IS A JOINT COMMITTEE ON BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE.

(B) (1) THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF 12 MEMBERS.

(2) OF THE 12 MEMBERS:

(I) SIX SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE; AND

(II) SIX SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

(C) FROM AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT A SENATOR TO SERVE AS THE SENATE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE, AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE SHALL APPOINT A DELEGATE TO SERVE AS THE HOUSE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE.

(D) THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE STAFF ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMITTEE.

(E) THE COMMITTEE SHALL ~~DEVELOP~~ PROVIDE CONTINUING LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OF THE STATE'S RESPONSE TO CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OCCURRING AS A RESULT OF THE BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE PROCESS.

(F) THE COMMITTEE SHALL OVERSEE AND PARTICIPATE, IN COOPERATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL UNITS, IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES THAT, WITH THE INTENT OF ACCELERATING PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SO THAT THE STATE IS PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE INFLUX OF JOBS AND PERSONNEL ASSOCIATED WITH THE BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE PROCESS, FAST TRACK THE APPROVAL OF:

- (1) TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE;**
- (2) WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE;**
- (3) STATE AND LOCAL PLANNING PROCESSES;**
- (4) AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS; ~~AND~~**
- (5) EDUCATION FACILITIES, INCLUDING PUBLIC SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONSTRUCTION; AND**
- (6) HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2007.

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2007.