



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Kevin A. Anderson | Secretary of Commerce
Signe Pringle | Deputy Secretary of Commerce

DATE: March 21, 2024
BILL NO: Senate Bill 214
BILL TITLE: Maryland Military Installation Council - Membership
COMMITTEE: House Ways and Means
POSITION: Support

The Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce) supports Senate Bill 214 – Maryland Military Installation Council – Membership.

Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 214 alters the membership of the Maryland Military Installation Council (MMIC) by adding the Secretary of Labor or their designee, the State Superintendent of Schools or their designee, and a spouse of a service member to be appointed by the Governor. The bill also updates the names of two organizations already serving on the MMIC.

Background:

The Maryland Military Installation Council originated as the Maryland Military Installation Strategic Planning Council established by the General Assembly in August 2003 (Chapter 335, Acts of 2003). Effective June 1, 2006, the Council was restructured as the Maryland Military Installation Council (Chapter 634, Acts of 2006). In 2010, the state legislature again amended the charter to repeal the December 31, 2011 termination date for the MMIC, increase membership of the council to 24 by including the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Adjutant General of the Maryland National Guard, and establish four-year, staggered terms for appointed members. The MMIC is staffed by Commerce and the Secretary of Commerce serves as the Chair.

Rationale:

The MMIC is a public forum bringing together those from behind the installation fence to the community to share best practices, provide Department of Defense (DoD) insights on budget and programmatic impacts to the military missions in Maryland and to discuss installation-specific challenges. The MMIC identifies the public infrastructure, potential impact on local communities, and support needed for State military installation development and expansion. The Council also reviews State policies to support military installations and maximize economic benefits to local communities. Adding these three members to the MMIC will bring additional perspectives to the work of the MMIC relating to workforce, education, and issues important to the families of those serving in Maryland.

The economic impact of Maryland’s military installations in FY 2021 was \$61.4B in payroll and expenditures. With 72% of military families living off-base in our communities, the MMIC often discusses and makes recommendations across a variety of topics across the State. With increased focus on workforce, military family housing, and military childcare and education, altering the membership of the MMIC to include additional state departments as statutory

members will not only better serve the state's military families but will bring increased coordination at the state level to holistically support the defense communities throughout Maryland. Additionally, having a military spouse serving on the MMIC will directly bring the perspective of those impacted by these policies and recommendations.

Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 214.