

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 936

BY REPRESENTATIVE DANAHAAY

MILITARY AFFAIRS: Creates the Louisiana Military Advisory Council

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Subpart B of Part I of Chapter 1 of Title 29 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
3 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 29:61 through 67, relative to military forces; to create  
4 the Louisiana Military Advisory Council; to provide for the membership of the  
5 council and its officers; to provide for terms of office for the members of the council;  
6 to provide relative to compensation and expenses for council members; to provide  
7 the powers and duties of the council; to require the establishment of working groups;  
8 and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

13 SUBPART B. LOUISIANA MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

14 §61. Name; creation

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

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

18 A. The Council shall be composed of twenty-five members.

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

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

- 1                   **(b) The adjutant general of Louisiana, or his designee.**
- 2                   **(c) The president of the Louisiana State Senate, or a state senator designated**  
3 **by the president.**
- 4                   **(d) The speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, or a state**  
5 **representative designated by the speaker.**
- 6                   **(e) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development, or his**  
7 **designee.**
- 8                   **(f) The secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or his designee.**
- 9                   **(2) The governor shall appoint nineteen members in accordance with the**  
10 **following provisions:**
- 11                   **(a) The chair of the Louisiana Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.**
- 12                   **(b) The president of Barksdale Forward, or an advocate for Barksdale Air**  
13 **Force Base.**
- 14                   **(c) The president of Fort Polk Progress, or an advocate for Fort Polk**  
15 **Progress.**
- 16                   **(d) The president of Callendar Commitment, or an advocate for the Naval**  
17 **Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chasse, Louisiana, and constituent units.**
- 18                   **(e) The chair of the New Orleans Mayor's Military Advisory Council, or an**  
19 **advocate for the Marine Corps Support Facility located in New Orleans, Louisiana,**  
20 **or for the United States Coast Guard Eighth District, or for the United States Army**  
21 **Corps of Engineers.**
- 22                   **(f) Five members shall be appointed from retired flag, general or O-6**  
23 **officers, or a command sergeant major representing each of the Armed Services,**  
24 **National Guard, and the Reserves.**
- 25                   **(3) Nine members shall be appointed at-large and shall be representative of**  
26 **national defense and homeland security businesses with operations in Louisiana,**  
27 **elected officials of an installation community, or president of a regional economic**  
28 **development organization.**

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

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

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

11          D. The governor shall appoint the chair and vice-chair of the council from  
12          its membership. All other officers as deemed necessary by the council shall be  
13          elected from its membership.

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

18          §63. Meetings; quorum

19          The council shall meet bi-annually and at any other time that the chair may  
20          deem necessary to call a meeting of the council.

21          §64. Compensation

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

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

28          C. Any member of the council who is also a member of the Louisiana  
29          Legislature may seek per diem from the Senate or House of Representatives, as

1       appropriate, for their attendance at board meetings or services rendered on behalf of  
2       the Board.

3       §65. Duties and powers

4             A. The duties and objectives of the members of the council shall include, but  
5       are not limited to, the following:

6             (1) Provide a public forum for issues concerning the installations and units  
7       of the Armed Forces located in Louisiana and the military and retired military  
8       personnel and their families who reside in Louisiana.

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

13            (3) Study and determine the means to increase and strengthen the state's  
14       support to the Armed Forces of the United States located within the state.

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

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

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

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

25            (8) In partnership with the Department of Economic Development and local  
26       communities, conduct an ongoing analyses of current and proposed changes to the  
27       mission and military force structure and alignment of the United States Department  
28       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 Guard,  
27           National Reserve and retired military personnel from either branch of the military.

28           §66. Working groups

29           A. The Council shall establish the following working groups:

1                   (1) Military Sustainment Working Group

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

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

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

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

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

17                  §67. Coordination; state government

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

21                  Section 2.(A) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to change the  
22 heading of Part 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 29 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 from  
23 "GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR MILITARY FORCES OF THE STATE" to "MILITARY  
24 FORCES OF THE STATE".

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

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Danahay

HB No. 936

**Abstract:** Establishes the Louisiana Military Advisory Council and provides for the membership, officers, terms of office, compensation, and its powers and duties.

Proposed law establishes the La. Military Advisory Council within the La. Dept. of Economic Development.

Proposed law provides for the council to be comprised of 25 members as follows:

- (1) The governor or his designee.
- (2) The adjutant general or his designee.
- (3) The president of the Senate or a designated senator.
- (4) The speaker of the House of Representatives or a state representative.
- (5) The secretary of the Dept. of Economic Development or his designee.
- (6) The secretary of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs or his designee.
- (7) The following members as appointed by the governor:
  - (a) The chair of the Louisiana Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.
  - (b) The president of Barksdale Forward or an advocate.
  - (c) The chair of the Louisiana Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.
  - (d) The president of Fort Polk Progress, or an advocate.
  - (e) The president of Callendar Commitment, or an advocate.
  - (f) The chair of the New Orleans Mayor's Military Advisory Council, or an advocate.
  - (g) Five from retired flag, general or O-6 officers, or a command sergeant major representing each of the Armed Services, National Guard, and the Reserves.
  - (h) Nine members to be appointed at-large representing certain organization.

Proposed law provides for staggered terms for all those appointments made by the governor.

Proposed law provides for appointment of chair, vice-chair, and executive director to be made by the governor and any additional officers to be elected by the membership.

Proposed law requires the council to meet bi-annually.

Proposed law prohibits members and military liaisons from receiving additional compensation or per diem for their service, and authorizes state employees and elected public officials to receive per diem.

Proposed law provides for certain duties and powers of the council.

Proposed law requires the council to submit an annual status and progress report on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to the governor.

Proposed law authorizes the council to request studies or analysis to be made for purposes of accomplishing their required duties and objectives.

Proposed law requires the council to establish working groups to include the Military Sustainment Working Group to accomplish specific objectives.

Proposed law requires all departments, commissions, boards, offices, entities, agencies, and officers of the state to cooperate with the council in implementing the provisions of this proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 29:61-67)