

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE BILL NO. 250

BY SENATOR JOHN SMITH

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Creates the Louisiana Military Advisory Council. (7/1/12)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part VI of Chapter 3 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be  
3 comprised of R.S. 51:971.1 through 971.12, relative to the Department of Economic  
4 Development; to establish the Military Advisory Council; to provide for legislative  
5 findings; to provide for membership and terms of office; to provide for officers; to  
6 provide for qualifications; to provide for a quorum; to provide for meetings; to  
7 provide for committees; to provide for expenses and staff; to provide for duties; to  
8 require certain reports; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. Part VI of Chapter 3 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
11 to be comprised of R.S. 51:971.1 through 971.12, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 **PART VI. MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

13 **§971.1. Legislative findings**

14 **A. The state of Louisiana has a vital interest in the installations and units**  
15 **of all the armed services located in Louisiana, including the United States Coast**  
16 **Guard, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Louisiana Military**  
17 **Department, and the Active, Guard, Reserve, retired military personnel and**

1 their families, who reside in Louisiana. The state's excellent relationships and  
2 communications with its military partners are optimized by a coordinating body  
3 to provide a forum for enhanced interaction and to serve as a liaison between  
4 the various military entities and representatives of civilian interests. Various  
5 situations, such as base realignment and closure, federal and state budgetary  
6 pressures, major troop deployments, major unit reassignments, installation and  
7 community compatibility, quality of life issues, and mission sustainment matters  
8 will continue to arise, which necessitates the use of such a coordinating body.

9 B. To optimize state and military partnerships, the Legislature of the  
10 state of Louisiana finds that a coordinating body comprised of influential,  
11 motivated leaders, supported by determined, result-oriented stakeholders, who  
12 all collaborate with community, industry, municipal, state and federal  
13 stakeholders will set the conditions for superior state-military relationships,  
14 mission sustainability, economic development, and mutually improved quality  
15 of life. To facilitate this coordination, the legislature hereby establishes the  
16 Military Advisory Council within the Department of Economic Development.

17 §971.2. Military Advisory Council; membership; term of office

18 A. The council shall be composed of a maximum of twenty-five members,  
19 nineteen of whom shall be appointed by the governor in the following manner:

20 (1) The president of Barksdale Forward, or an advocate for Barksdale  
21 Air Force Base.

22 (2) The president of Fort Polk Progress, or an advocate for Fort Polk.

23 (3) The president of Callendar Commitment, or an advocate for the  
24 Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, and constituent units.

25 (4) The chair of the New Orleans Mayor's Military Advisory Council, or  
26 an advocate for the Marine Corps Support Facility, the U.S. Coast Guard  
27 Eighth District, or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

28 (5) The chair of the Louisiana Employer Support of the Guard.

29 (6) Five retired flag, general, or O-6 officers, or command sergeants

1 major, representing each of the Armed Services, National Guard, and U.S.  
2 Coast Guard.

3 (7) Nine at-large members comprised of national defense and homeland  
4 security businesses with operations in Louisiana, elected officials of an  
5 installation community, or a president of a regional economic development  
6 organization.

7 B. In addition, the following public officials shall serve as ex-officio  
8 members of the council with full right to participate in and vote on all matters:

9 (1) The governor of Louisiana, or the governor's designee.

10 (2) The adjutant general of Louisiana, or the adjutant general's designee.

11 (3) The president of the Louisiana State Senate, or state senator  
12 designated by the president.

13 (4) The speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, or state  
14 representative designated by the speaker.

15 (5) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development, or the  
16 secretary's designee.

17 (6) The secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or the  
18 secretary's designee.

19 C. (1) The terms of the five retired military personnel, as described in  
20 Subpart (A)(6) of this Section, shall be staggered so that two appointments shall  
21 expire at two years, one appointment shall expire at three years, and two  
22 appointments shall expire at four years, from the dates of initial appointment.

23 (2) The terms of the nine at-large members shall be staggered so that  
24 three appointments shall expire at two years, three appointments shall expire  
25 at three years, and three appointments shall expire at four years, from the dates  
26 of initial appointment.

27 §971.3. Selection of officers

28 The governor shall appoint the chair and vice-chair of the council from  
29 its membership. All other officers, if any, shall be elected by the council from

1 its membership.

2 §971.4. Qualifications of council members

3 Each appointed member of the council shall be a qualified elector of the  
4 state of Louisiana. Except as provided in R.S. 51:971.2(B), no appointed  
5 member shall hold public office or be otherwise employed by the state or any  
6 agency thereof.

7 §971.5. Compensation and expenses

8 A. Council members and military liaisons shall not receive additional  
9 compensation or a per diem from the office of the governor for serving on the  
10 council.

11 B. Council members who are employees or elected public officials of the  
12 state of Louisiana or a political subdivision of the state of Louisiana may seek  
13 reimbursement of travel expenses, in accordance with PPM 49, from their  
14 employing department, agency, or elected office.

15 C. Council members who are also a member of the Louisiana Legislature  
16 may seek a per diem from the Louisiana State Senate or House of  
17 Representatives, as appropriate, for their attendance at council meetings or  
18 services on the council.

19 §971.6. Quorum

20 Excluding any vacancies on the council, a majority of the members of the  
21 council shall constitute a quorum, and a majority thereof may act on any matter  
22 within the jurisdiction of the board.

23 §971.7. Meetings

24 The council shall meet at regularly scheduled biannual meetings, and at  
25 the call of the chair.

26 §971.8. Committees of the council

27 The council shall establish committees, which shall include, but not be  
28 limited to, the following:

29 A. Military Sustainment Working Group.

1           **(1) The group shall interface directly with military installation and**  
2           **command leadership on matters related to mission sustainment, quality of life,**  
3           **installation operations, and community and state relations.**

4           **(2) The group shall meet regularly, no fewer than eight times annually,**  
5           **and at the call of the chair.**

6           **(3) The group shall receive, collate, prioritize and present to the council**  
7           **no less than twice annually the key initiatives derived from Subparagraph**  
8           **(A)(1) of this Section.**

9           **(4) The group shall report no less than twice annually to the council on**  
10           **recommendations to optimize conditions set forth in Subparagraph (A)(1) of**  
11           **this Section and a strategic plan to achieve optimal conditions.**

12           **B. The council may create working groups composed of council**  
13           **members, stakeholders and non-council members.**

14           **C. Committees shall meet in accordance with the open meetings law, R.S.**  
15           **42:4.1, et seq.**

16           **§971.9. Expenses of the council; staff**

17           **A. The council may receive and expend funds appropriated or otherwise**  
18           **made available by the legislature or from any other source, including donations**  
19           **or gifts of money or services from public or private organizations or from any**  
20           **other sources, to be utilized for the purposes of the council.**

21           **B. There shall be an executive director, appointed by the governor, who**  
22           **shall provide administrative and staff support for the council. The executive**  
23           **director shall have authority to contract for services, expend funds, and operate**  
24           **the normal business activities of the council.**

25           **§971.10. Cooperation between the council and state entities**

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

1           **§971.11. Duties and objectives of the council**

2           **The duties and objectives of the council shall include, but not be limited**  
3 **to, the following:**

4           **A. Provide a public forum for issues concerning the installations and**  
5 **units of the United States Coast Guard and the armed forces of the United**  
6 **States located within the state, Active, Guard, Reserve, and retired military**  
7 **personnel and their families who reside in Louisiana.**

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

13           **C. Study and determine the means to increase and strengthen the state's**  
14 **support to the United States Coast Guard and armed forces of the United States**  
15 **located within the state.**

16           **D. Review and disseminate information about proposed legislation**  
17 **related to and directly impacting the United States Coast Guard and military**  
18 **communities within the state.**

19           **E. Propose and sponsor activities, legislation, initiatives, programs, or**  
20 **projects which support and enhance the United States Coast Guard and the**  
21 **military's activities within the state or which enhance or improve the quality of**  
22 **life for the United States Coast Guard and military communities.**

23           **F. Collect information about and become familiar with the concerns and**  
24 **activities of local communities in enhancing and supporting their respective**  
25 **military bases.**

26           **G. Conduct an analysis of the strengths of each military base and share**  
27 **the evaluation with the council and the affected community.**

28           **H. Partner with the Department of Economic Development and local**  
29 **communities, conduct ongoing analyses of current and proposed changes to the**

1 mission and military force structure and alignment of the United States  
2 Department of Defense.

3 I. Identify the most effective methods and practices used by local  
4 communities to address the issue of military base support and enhancement and  
5 disseminate such best practices among affected communities.

6 J. Ensure that affected communities and stakeholders are informed of  
7 and invited to assist and support state-level efforts to affect statewide  
8 coordination of information gathering, strategy development, and the sharing  
9 of best practices.

10 K. Educate the legislature on the importance of supporting legislation  
11 relating to the state's military bases.

12 L. Ensure that the council is strategically positioned to interface with  
13 decision makers in the executive branch of the federal government, homeland  
14 security agencies, intelligence agencies, and the United States Congress  
15 concerning the state's military installations and major units.

16 M. Research and identify best practices and strategies throughout the  
17 country with respect to other military communities in order to leverage the  
18 state's competitive advantage.

19 N. Increase public awareness of the presence and value of United States  
20 military installations and their missions in Louisiana and public investment in  
21 supporting the state's military bases.

22 §971.12. Reports

23 A. The council shall submit a report to the governor and legislature  
24 annually on the first day of January regarding the status of and progress  
25 achieved on the issues described in R.S. 51:971.11.

26 B. The council shall make, or cause to be made, all such studies, reviews,  
27 or analysis which it finds necessary to effect the duties and objectives expressed  
28 above, including but not limited to, a quadrennial statewide and regional  
29 military economic impact analysis.

1 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2012

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

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#### DIGEST

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

Proposed law provides that the council consists of 25 members, with 19 members appointed by the governor in the following manner:

1. The president of Barksdale Forward, or an advocate for Barksdale Air Force Base.
2. The president of Fort Polk Progress, or an advocate for Fort Polk.
3. The president of Callendar Commitment, or an advocate for the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, and constituent units.
4. The chair of the New Orleans Mayor's Military Advisory Council, or an advocate for Marine Corps Support Facility, the U.S. Coast Guard Eighth District, or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
5. The chair of the Louisiana Employer Support of the Guard.
6. Five retired flag, general or O-6 officers, or command sergeants major representing each of the Armed Services, National Guard, and U.S. Coast Guard.
7. Nine at-large members comprised of national defense and homeland security businesses with operations in Louisiana, elected officials of an installation community, or a president of a regional economic development organization.

Proposed law provides that the following public officials serve as ex-officio members of the council with full right to participate in and vote on all matters:

1. The governor, or his designee.
2. The adjutant general, or his designee.
3. The president of the Senate, or a senator designated by the president.
4. The speaker of the House of Representatives, or a state representative designated by the speaker.
5. The secretary of the Dept. of Economic Development, or his designee.
6. The secretary of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, or his designee.

Proposed law provides for staggered terms of the appointed member.

Proposed law provides that the governor appoints the chair and vice-chair of the council from its membership. Further, all other officers, if any, shall be elected by the council from its membership.

Proposed law requires each appointed member of the board to be a qualified elector of the state, and prohibits appointed members from holding public office or being otherwise



employed by the state or any agency thereof.

Proposed law prohibits council members and military liaisons from receiving additional compensation or a per diem from the governor's office for serving on the council.

Proposed law allows council members that are employees or elected public officials of the state or a political subdivision of the state to seek reimbursement of travel expenses from their employing department, agency, or elected office.

Proposed law allows council members that are also members of the legislature to seek a per diem from the senate or house.

Proposed law provides that a majority of the members of the board constitute a quorum.

Proposed law requires regularly scheduled biannual meetings and other meetings called by the chair.

Proposed law requires the council to establish a Military Sustainment Working Group committee and may establish other committees.

Proposed law allows the council to receive and expend funds appropriated or otherwise made available by the legislature or from any other source, including donations or gifts of money or services from public or private organizations or from any other sources, to be utilized for the purposes of the council.

Proposed law requires the governor to appoint an executive director to provide administrative and staff support for the council. Proposed law authorizes the executive director to contract for services, expend funds, and operate the normal business activities of the council.

Proposed law requires all departments, commissions, boards, offices, entities, agencies, and officers of the state of Louisiana, or any political subdivision thereof, to cooperate with the council.

Proposed law provides for duties and objectives of the council as follows:

1. Provide a public forum for issues concerning the installations and units of the U.S. Coast Guard and the armed forces located within the state, Active, Guard, Reserve, and retired military personnel and their families who reside in La.
2. Formulate goals and objectives to enhance cooperation, coordination, communication, and understanding among the military, the U.S. Dept. of Defense, the La. Congressional Delegation, the communities in the state interfacing with the military, and state and local government agencies.
3. Study and determine the means to increase and strengthen the state's support to the U.S. Coast Guard and armed forces located within the state.
4. Review and disseminate information about proposed legislation related to and directly impacting the U.S. Coast Guard and military communities within the state.
5. Propose and sponsor activities, legislation, initiatives, programs, or projects which support and enhance the U.S. Coast Guard and the military's activities within the state or which enhance or improve the quality of life for the U.S. Coast Guard and military communities.
6. Collect information about and become familiar with the concerns and activities of local communities in enhancing and supporting their respective military bases.

7. Conduct an analysis of the strengths of each military base and share the evaluation with the council and the affected community.
8. Partner with the Dept. of Economic Development and local communities, conduct ongoing analyses of current and proposed changes to the mission and military force structure and alignment of the U.S. Dept. of Defense.
9. Identify the most effective methods and practices used by local communities to address the issue of military base support and enhancement and disseminate such best practices among affected communities.
10. Ensure that affected communities and stakeholders are informed of and invited to assist and support state-level efforts to affect statewide coordination of information gathering, strategy development, and the sharing of best practices.
11. Educate the legislature on the importance of supporting legislation relating to the state's military bases.
12. Ensure that the council is strategically positioned to interface with decision makers in the executive branch of the federal government, homeland security agencies, intelligence agencies, and the U.S. Congress concerning the state's military installations and major units.
13. Research and identify best practices and strategies throughout the country with respect to other military communities in order to leverage the state's competitive advantage.
14. Increase public awareness of the presence and value of U.S. military installations and their missions in La. and public investment in supporting the state's military bases.

Proposed law requires the council to submit a report to the governor and legislature annually on January 1, regarding the status of and progress achieved on the issues described in proposed law.

Effective July 1, 2012.

(Adds R.S. 51:971.1 through 971.12 )