

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 522

2 INTRODUCED BY E. BUTTREY, D. BEDEY, S. BERGLEE, A. BUCKLEY, F. GARNER

3
 4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MILITARY STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC
 5 IMPACT TASK FORCE CONCERNING RETENTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
 6 AND FORCE STRUCTURES TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN MONTANA;
 7 ALLOCATING THE TASK FORCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
 8 PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP, EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT, AND DUTIES;
 9 CREATING A STATE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING
 10 AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

11
 12 WHEREAS, the Montana National Guard provides more than \$158 million in economic impetus to the
 13 State of Montana, and the total federal economic impetus of the Montana Department of Military Affairs and the
 14 National Guard to the State of Montana is over \$415 million; and

15 WHEREAS, Malmstrom Air Force Base provides more than \$655 million in economic impetus to the
 16 State of Montana, airmen stationed at Malmstrom own over 1,200 homes in Montana, military construction and
 17 service contracts provide more than \$53 million to local developers, the base spends more than \$9.4 million for
 18 utilities, and Malmstrom services more than 7,500 miles of roads in Montana, which benefits Montana's
 19 commerce; and

20 WHEREAS, the federal sequestration, fiscal cliff, base realignment and closure activities, and other
 21 cost-cutting measures will put current military missions and assets in Montana and, therefore, Montana's
 22 economic well-being at risk, now and well into the future; and

23 WHEREAS, FOR DECADES THE TASK OF ADVOCATING FOR OUR MILITARY MISSIONS IN MONTANA HAS BEEN
 24 ACCOMPLISHED BY A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION IN CASCADE COUNTY SUPPORTED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE
 25 AREA BUSINESSES, AND THIS ORGANIZATION, THE MONTANA DEFENSE ALLIANCE, HAS BEEN LIMITED BY THE LACK OF
 26 FORMAL STATE OF MONTANA RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT; AND

27 WHEREAS, MOST states with military missions and assets have formed ~~statewide~~ STATE GOVERNMENT-
 28 SANCTIONED advocacy groups to help protect existing military force structures in their states, identify new

1 missions, educate the public, and promote economic development tied to the military, and Montana is ~~the last~~
 2 ~~state to lack this~~ ONE OF THE FEW STATES LACKING THIS TYPE OF statewide organization, which clearly affects
 3 Montana's ability to be successful as national cuts to the military are implemented; AND

4 WHEREAS, THE CURRENT LEVEL OF COMPETITION FROM OTHER STATES REQUIRES AN ADVOCACY EFFORT
 5 SANCTIONED BY THE STATE OF MONTANA IN ORDER TO RETAIN OUR EXISTING MILITARY ASSETS AND PROMOTE NEW
 6 MISSION OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL AS MILITARY-RELATED MANUFACTURING.

7

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9

10 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Montana military strategic and economic impact task force --
 11 membership -- compensation -- duties. (1) (a) There is a Montana military strategic and economic impact
 12 task force consisting of seven ~~voting~~ members appointed by the governor on recommendation of the person or
 13 entities, if applicable, as provided in subsection (1)(b) ~~and up to three nonvoting members appointed by the~~
 14 ~~legislature.~~ Each member must be a resident of the state.

15 (b) The ~~voting~~ members are:

16 (i) the adjutant general OR AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S STAFF AS SELECTED BY THE
 17 GOVERNOR;

18 (ii) a member representing the business community as recommended by a statewide organization that
 19 represents Montana businesses;

20 (iii) ~~a member representing the interests of the active duty military in the state as recommended by the~~
 21 ~~state's highest active duty military commander or, in the absence of a recommendation from the commander,~~
 22 ~~by the governing body of the county where the military has the highest economic impact in the state~~ A
 23 REPRESENTATIVE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAVING ZONING AUTHORITY OVER ISSUES SUCH AS ENCROACHMENT OF
 24 MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, AS APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY WITH THE LARGEST ACTIVE DUTY
 25 MILITARY FINANCIAL IMPACT IN THE STATE;

26 (iv) a member representing veterans of the armed forces;

27 (v) ~~a member with knowledge about the employment challenges experienced by national guard and~~
 28 ~~federal reserve service members as recommended by a statewide organization that advocates for service~~

- 1 ~~members and their employers~~ A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OR MILITARY ADVOCACY
 2 ORGANIZATION FROM THE COUNTY WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF MILITARY MEMBERS IN THE STATE, AS APPOINTED BY
 3 THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF MILITARY MEMBERS IN THE STATE;
- 4 (vi) a member representing the enlisted men and women of the armed forces as recommended by a
 5 statewide organization that represents the enlisted men and women of the armed forces; and
- 6 (vii) a member representing military and aerospace manufacturing in the state as recommended by a
 7 statewide organization that represents manufacturing businesses in the state.
- 8 ~~(c) The nonvoting members are:~~
- 9 ~~(i) a state senator appointed by the president of the senate;~~
 10 ~~(ii) a state representative appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and~~
 11 ~~(iii) a state senator or state representative selected jointly by the minority leaders of the senate and the~~
 12 ~~house of representatives if the senate and the house of representatives are controlled by the same party.~~
- 13 (2) (a) The task force shall elect a presiding officer from among its ~~voting~~ members. Task force
 14 meetings are subject to the open meetings laws provided in Title 2, chapter 3, part 2.
- 15 (b) The task force is allocated to the department of commerce for administrative purposes only as
 16 provided in 2-15-121, which shall provide staff and administrative support to the task force.
- 17 (c) Task force members are entitled to reimbursement for expenses as provided in 2-18-501 through
 18 2-18-503.
- 19 (3) The purpose of the task force is to:
- 20 (a) advocate for retention and development of military missions, installations, and force structures that
 21 provide economic development opportunities in the state and serve a role in the defense strategy of the nation;
 22 and
- 23 (b) educate the public, legislature, and congressional delegation about the economic and strategic
 24 impact of current and future military development in the state.
- 25 (4) In fulfilling its purpose under subsection (3), the task force shall:
- 26 (a) examine potential base realignment and closure actions;
 27 (b) study the economic impact that the active and reserve component military missions and force
 28 structures in the state have on the state's economy and the strategic impact for the nation of those programs

1 and assets;

2 (c) develop a strategic plan for how to position the state with respect to potential base realignment
3 and closure actions so that the state has the best possible opportunity to retain and develop future military
4 economic development opportunities and to play a role in the nation's strategy for national defense;

5 (d) provide regular updates on task force activities to the governor, the president of the senate, and
6 the speaker of the house of representatives;

7 (e) prepare reports and presentations consistent with its purpose and duties;

8 (f) lobby members of congress and act as a liaison with civilian and military personnel engaged in
9 making decisions concerning current and potential military missions and active and reserve component force
10 structures in the state; and

11 (g) work and coordinate with other local and state military advocacy organizations as necessary.

12 (5) THE ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY IN SUBSECTION (4)(B) WILL COMMENCE UPON FUNDING OF THE SPECIAL
13 REVENUE ACCOUNT OUTLINED IN [SECTION 2].

14 ~~(5) Members are appointed to 4-year staggered terms. A legislative member may continue to serve~~
15 ~~for the 4 years even if the member's legislative term expires. A member appointed to fill a vacancy may serve~~
16 ~~only for the remainder of the previous member's term. A member may be reappointed.~~

17 (6) The task force shall formulate a budget and submit a copy of that budget to the state
18 administration and veterans' affairs interim committee by December 31, 2021.

19
20 **NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. MILITARY STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC IMPACT TASK FORCE SPECIAL REVENUE**

21 **ACCOUNT. (1) THERE IS A MILITARY STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC IMPACT TASK FORCE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT TO**
22 **THE CREDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.**

23 (2) The account consists of grants, gifts, and donations from public and private sources that are made
24 to the department of commerce for the purpose of supporting the military strategic and economic impact task
25 force provided for in [section 1].

26 (3) Money in the account must be used by the department of commerce to support the economic
27 impact study carried out by the military strategic and economic impact task force.

28 (4) Money in the account that is unencumbered and unexpended at the end of the biennium must be

1 transferred to the department of commerce. The department shall use the reverted money to provide
 2 administrative services to the military strategic and economic impact task force.

3
 4 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriation. There is appropriated \$150,000 from the general fund to
 5 the department of commerce: FOR EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023, TO ESTABLISH AND
 6 ADMINISTER THE MILITARY STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC IMPACT TASK FORCE.

7 (1) ~~—\$250,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, to conduct the study described in [section 1(4)];~~

8 and

9 (2) ~~—\$163,000 for each year of the biennium ending June 30, 2023, for the purposes of implementing~~
 10 ~~[section 1].~~

11
 12 NEW SECTION. Section 3 .— Implementation of staggered appointments. To implement the
 13 staggered appointment criteria established in [section 1(5)], the initial appointments of the following members of
 14 the Montana military strategic and economic impact task force must be for 2 years:

15 (1) ~~the business community representative appointed under [section 1(1)(b)(ii)];~~

16 (2) ~~the active duty liaison member~~ LOCAL GOVERNMENT ZONING REPRESENTATIVE appointed under
 17 ~~[section 1(1)(b)(iii)]; and~~

18 (3) ~~the employment challenges member~~ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OR MILITARY ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION
 19 REPRESENTATIVE appointed under [section 1(1)(b)(v)].

20
 21 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is [SECTIONS 1 AND 2] ARE intended
 22 to be codified as an integral part of Title 2, chapter 15, part 18, and the provisions of Title 2, chapter 15, part 18,
 23 apply to ~~[section 1]~~ [SECTIONS 1 AND 2].

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 25 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2021.

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 27 NEW SECTION. SECTION 6. TERMINATION. [THIS ACT] TERMINATES JUNE 30, 2025.

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