
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1494 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY BLAKE, ALLOWAY, SMITH, EICHELBERGER, MENSCH,
GREENLEAF, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, SCHWANK, COSTA, WHITE,
ERICKSON, VULAKOVICH, YUDICHAK, FOLMER, HUGHES, BAKER,
SOLOBAY AND TARTAGLIONE, OCTOBER 7, 2014

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
OCTOBER 7, 2014

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania Military Community Enhancement
2 Commission; and providing for its powers and duties.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania
7 Military Community Enhancement Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Military Community
13 Enhancement Commission.

14 Section 3. Pennsylvania Military Community Enhancement
15 Commission.

16 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Military Community

1 Enhancement Commission is established within the Department of
2 Community and Economic Development.

3 (b) Members.--The commission shall be composed of the
4 following:

5 (1) A member appointed by the President pro tempore of
6 the Senate.

7 (2) A member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
8 Senate.

9 (3) A member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
10 Representatives.

11 (4) A member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
12 House of Representatives.

13 (5) A member appointed by the Governor who has
14 experience at the senior level of the military, such as an
15 active duty retired three-star or four-star military officer,
16 and who is familiar with the operations represented by the
17 installations and organizations stationed in this
18 Commonwealth. The member shall serve as the chairperson
19 during the absence of the person elected under subsection
20 (c).

21 (6) At least two members appointed by the Governor who
22 are representatives of the military installations or
23 organizations stationed in this Commonwealth and who have
24 knowledge of the mission and operations of the installation
25 or organization they represent.

26 (7) At least two members appointed by the Governor who
27 are experts in the field of economic development and who are
28 knowledgeable in the missions and operations of the military
29 in their respective regions of this Commonwealth.

30 (8) An executive director appointed by the Governor who

1 is employed by the Department of Community and Economic
2 Development.

3 (c) Chairperson.--A chairperson shall be elected by a
4 majority of the commission members.

5 (d) Compensation.--Commission members shall not receive
6 compensation for their services, but shall receive reimbursement
7 for their necessary and proper expenses for attendance at
8 meetings.

9 Section 4. Commission membership terms.

10 (a) Terms.--Commission members shall be appointed for a term
11 of two years and serve until their respective successors are
12 appointed. A member may be reappointed for additional terms.
13 Members appointed by the Governor under section 3(b) shall serve
14 at the pleasure of the Governor.

15 (b) Vacancy.--If a vacancy occurs on the commission, a
16 successor shall be appointed in the same manner as the
17 predecessor.

18 (c) Absenteeism.--A commission member who is absent from two
19 consecutive meetings of the commission without a reasonable
20 excuse as determined by the chairperson shall forfeit membership
21 on the commission.

22 Section 5. Powers and duties of commission.

23 The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

24 (1) Closely monitoring the activities at the Federal
25 level pertaining to any initiative or proposal that will
26 affect, either positively or negatively, any military
27 installation or organization and defense-related organization
28 in this Commonwealth.

29 (2) Establishing a viable and long-term relationship
30 with each military installation, organization and defense-

1 related organization in this Commonwealth.

2 (3) Advising on the expansion of economic development
3 opportunities and defense-related industry organizations in
4 public or private sectors in this Commonwealth.

5 (4) Educating and engaging the stakeholders at the
6 Federal, State and local levels and in the public and private
7 sectors on the enhancement and preservation of the military
8 installations and organizations and defense-related
9 organizations in this Commonwealth.

10 (5) Advocating at the Federal, State and local levels
11 for the enhancement of the military installations and
12 organizations and defense-related organizations in this
13 Commonwealth in order to fully support our nation's military
14 at home and abroad.

15 (6) Estimating an annual budget for the commission.

16 Section 6. Office of Executive Director.

17 The Office of Executive Director is established in the
18 commission. The office shall be staffed by the executive
19 director appointed under section 3(b)(8), a deputy director and
20 a mid-level administrative officer to fulfill the commission's
21 purpose and responsibilities. Consultants may be employed as
22 deemed necessary by the commission.

23 Section 7. Report.

24 The commission shall report its activities no less than
25 quarterly to the Governor or the Governor's designated
26 representative.

27 Section 8. Effective date.

28 This act shall take effect in 60 days.