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HOUSE BILL NO. 2280

Offered January 13, 2025

Prefiled January 8, 2025

A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-2497 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Office of New Americans Advisory Board; increase in membership.

Patrons—Owen, Cherry, Cordoza, Green, Milde and Webert

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 2.2-2497 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 2.2-2497. Membership; terms; compensation and expenses.

A. The Board shall consist of ~~18~~ 21 nonlegislative citizen members appointed by the Governor who represent or have experience with the faith community; local government; the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service; law-enforcement agencies; health, mental health, housing, and workforce development organizations; organizations serving youth and the elderly; organizations providing legal services for immigrants; and educational institutions and institutions of higher education. In addition, *the Secretaries of Commerce and Trade, Education, Health and Human Resources, Labor, Public Safety and Homeland Security, and Transportation*, the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Commonwealth, and the Chairmen of the Virginia-Asian Advisory Board, the Latino Advisory Board, the Virginia African American Advisory Board, and the Council on Women, or their designees, shall serve ex officio with nonvoting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the Board shall be residents of the Commonwealth.

Ex officio members shall serve terms ~~consistent~~ *coincident* with their terms of office.

B. After the initial staggering of terms, nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for a term of four years. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired terms. No nonlegislative citizen member shall serve more than two consecutive four-year terms; however, the remainder of any term to which a member is appointed to fill a vacancy shall not constitute a term in determining the member's eligibility for reappointment.

C. The Board shall elect from its membership a chairman and vice-chairman. A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. Meetings of the Board shall be limited to four per year and shall be held upon the call of the chairman or whenever the majority of the members so request.

D. Members of the Board shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825.

2. That the initial terms of the three nonlegislative citizen members added to the Office of New Americans Advisory Board pursuant to this act shall be staggered as follows: one member shall be appointed for a term of one year; one member shall be appointed for a term of two years; and one member shall be appointed for a term of three years.