

2026 SESSION

INTRODUCED

26103625D

1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 203**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 7, 2026

4 A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 24 of Title 2.2 an article numbered 21.1,
5 consisting of sections numbered 2.2-2461.1 through 2.2-2461.4, relating to executive branch advisory
6 board; Middle Eastern and North African Advisory Board.

7 Patrons—Reaser and Feggans

8 Committee Referral Pending

9 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

10 1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 24 of Title 2.2 an article numbered 21.1,
11 consisting of sections numbered 2.2-2461.1 through 2.2-2461.4, as follows:

12 Article 21.1.

13 *Middle Eastern and North African Advisory Board.*

14 **§ 2.2-2461.1. Middle Eastern and North African Advisory Board; membership; terms; compensation
15 and expenses.**

16 A. The Middle Eastern and North African Advisory Board (the Board) is established as an advisory
17 board, within the meaning of § 2.2-2100, in the executive branch of state government. The Board shall
18 consist of 21 nonlegislative citizen members, at least 15 of whom shall be of Middle Eastern or Northern
19 African descent, who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. In addition, the
20 Secretaries of the Commonwealth, Commerce and Trade, Education, Health and Human Resources, Public
21 Safety and Homeland Security, and Transportation, or their designees, shall serve as ex officio members
22 without voting privileges. All members shall be residents of the Commonwealth.

23 B. After the initial staggering of terms, nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for a term of
24 four years. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired terms. No member shall be eligible to
25 serve more than two successive four-year terms; however, after the expiration of the remainder of a term to
26 which a member was appointed to fill a vacancy, two additional terms may be served by such member if
27 appointed thereto.

28 C. The Board shall elect from its membership a chairman and vice-chairman. A majority of the members
29 of the Board shall constitute a quorum. Meetings of the Board shall be held upon the call of the chairman or
30 whenever the majority of the members so request.

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

34 **§ 2.2-2461.2. Powers and duties.**

35 The Board shall have the power and duty to:

36 1. Advise the Governor regarding the development of economic, professional, cultural, educational, and
37 governmental links between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Middle Eastern and North African
38 community in Virginia;

39 2. Undertake studies, symposiums, research, and factual reports to gather information to formulate and
40 present recommendations to the Governor relative to issues of concern and importance to the Middle Eastern
41 and North African community in the Commonwealth; and

42 3. Advise the Governor as needed regarding any statutory, regulatory, or other issues of importance to
43 the Middle Eastern and North African community in the Commonwealth.

44 **§ 2.2-2461.3. Staff; cooperation from other state agencies.**

45 The Office of the Governor shall serve as staff to the Board. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall
46 assist the Board upon request.

47 **§ 2.2-2461.4. Sunset.**

48 This article shall expire on June 30, 2029.

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