STATE OF NEW YORK

1225

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 8, 2021

Introduced by Sen. RITCHIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to the governor's military council

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 192 to read as follows:

§ 192. Governor's military council. 1. There is hereby established within the division of military and naval affairs a council to be known as the "governor's military council". The mission of the governor's military council is to grow and protect major military activities located in the state of New York, to leverage such military activities into creating additional defense related jobs, and to help local units of government improve the quality of life of members of the armed forces and their families in this state.

2. (a) The governor's military council shall consist of no more than twelve members, each to serve for a term of three years. Such members shall be appointed as follows: one member shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate; one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; one member shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly; and eight members shall be appointed by the governor. Of the twelve members, such members shall include the adjutant general, the commissioner of economic development, the commissioner of labor, and the director of the division of veterans' affairs, or their designated representatives. Of the twelve members, such members shall include one member from each area in this state in which a military base is located, including Kings county, Jefferson county, Orange county, and Saratoga county. The governor shall designate one member as chairperson,

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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and may designate other officers as deemed appropriate. Base or post commanders may serve as ex-officio members of the council. Appointments shall be made within sixty days of the effective date of this section. Vacancies in the council shall be filled in the manner provided for original appointments.

(b) The members of the council shall serve at the pleasure of the governor and shall receive no compensation for services performed or reimbursement for expenses incurred pursuant to this section. The members shall meet upon the call of the chairperson as necessary to carry out the duties set forth in subdivision three of this section.

3. The duties of the governor's military council shall be to initiate, study, and make recommendations to the governor and the legislature, with respect to strategies to:

(a) optimize the military presence in this state through the removal of operational impediments, increasing operating efficiencies, and recruitment or acquisition of new missions and force structure;

(b) foster close, effective cooperation among the installations, and public and private sectors throughout the state;

(c) pursue initiatives to enhance the quality of life for all active and reserve component military personnel;

(d) explore and develop outreach opportunities for individuals discharging or retiring from military service to use their talents and skills as members of the state workforce;

(e) assist in the development, coordination, and execution of strategies required by any future change in missions proposed by the department of defense; and

(f) grow defense-related industries in areas around the state's military bases and installations.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.