

Senate Bill 395

By: Senators Watson of the 1st, Harbison of the 15th, Walker III of the 20th, Black of the 8th, Jones II of the 22nd and others

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 vocational, technical, and adult education, so as to create the Georgia Joint Defense  
3 Commission; to provide for appointments, terms of office, compensation, and duties; to  
4 provide for annual reports; to provide for administrative support; to create the Defense  
5 Community Economic Development Grant Program; to provide for the transfer of funds; to  
6 provide for an application process and procedures; to provide for rules and regulations; to  
7 provide for definitions; to repeal Article 10 of Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of  
8 Georgia Annotated, relating to the Defense Community Economic Development Fund; to  
9 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to vocational,  
13 technical, and adult education, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

14 "ARTICLE 6  
15 PART 1

16 20-4-120.

17 (a) There is hereby created the Georgia Joint Defense Commission, which shall consist  
18 of 19 members as follows:

19 (1) The chairperson of the Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee;

20 (2) The chairperson of the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee;

21 (3) Four members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
22 House of Representatives;

23 (4) Two members of the Senate, one each from the majority party and the minority party,  
24 to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

25 (5) One citizen member from each of the state's eight military installation regions to be  
 26 appointed by the Governor;

27 (6) The director of the Governor's Defense Initiative;

28 (7) The Adjutant General of the Georgia National Guard or his or her designee; and

29 (8) The commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia or his or her designee.

30 (b)(1) The members of the commission appointed pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (4)  
 31 of subsection (a) of this Code section shall serve two-year terms.

32 (2) The members of the commission appointed pursuant to paragraph (5) of subsection  
 33 (a) of this Code section shall serve four-year terms, provided that of the initial appointees,  
 34 two shall serve an initial two-year term, two shall serve an initial three-year term, and  
 35 four shall serve an initial four-year term.

36 (3) The members of the commission appointed pursuant to paragraphs (6) and (7) of  
 37 subsection (a) of this Code section shall serve the duration of their respective terms in  
 38 office.

39 (c) The commission chairperson shall be the director of the Governor's Defense Initiative.  
 40 The commission shall meet at such times and places as it deems necessary or convenient  
 41 to perform its duties. The commission shall also meet upon the written call of the  
 42 commission chairperson or of three of its members. The commission shall maintain  
 43 minutes of its meetings and such other records as it deems necessary.

44 (d)(1) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall receive  
 45 for each day of attendance at commission meetings a daily expense allowance in the  
 46 amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21, plus reimbursement for  
 47 actual transportation costs while traveling by public carrier, or the legal mileage rate for  
 48 use of a personal car in connection with such attendance.

49 (2) The daily expense allowance and reimbursement of transportation costs provided for  
 50 by this subsection:

51 (A) Shall be paid by funds appropriated to the Technical College System of Georgia;  
 52 and

53 (B) Shall not be received by any member of the commission for more than five days  
 54 unless additional days are authorized by the Governor.

55 (e) Members of the commission shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor, President of  
 56 the Senate, or Speaker of the House of Representatives, in accordance with who appointed  
 57 them.

58 20-4-121.

59 The Georgia Joint Defense Commission shall:

- 60 (1) Advise the Governor and the General Assembly on defense and military issues within  
 61 the state and nationally;
- 62 (2) Make recommendations regarding policies and plans to support the long-term  
 63 viability and development of the military, both active and civilian, in this state;
- 64 (3) Develop methods to assist defense-dependent communities in the design and  
 65 execution of programs that enhance each community's relationship with military  
 66 installations and defense related business;
- 67 (4) Serve as a task force to seek advice on and prepare for potential base realignment or  
 68 closure of military installations in the state;
- 69 (5) Develop and implement a plan to navigate potential base realignment or closure of  
 70 military installations studies and proceedings; and
- 71 (6) Produce and distribute a detailed report no later than December 1, 2018, and annually  
 72 thereafter, regarding the status of the state's military installations, as well as a strategic  
 73 plan for navigating any potential base realignment or closure of military installations in  
 74 the state. Such annual reports shall be distributed to the Governor and the General  
 75 Assembly and shall be made publicly available.

76 20-4-122.

77 Staff of the Technical College System of Georgia shall provide administrative support for  
 78 the Georgia Joint Defense Commission.

79 PART 2

80 20-4-130.

81 As used in this part, the term:

- 82 (1) 'Federal review' means any review of a military installation by a federal entity for the  
 83 purpose of determining the viability of such military installation, including, but not  
 84 limited to, any review directly or indirectly related to the Defense Base Closure and  
 85 Realignment Commission.
- 86 (2) 'Grant goal' means any project, event, or activity that promotes a military installation,  
 87 including, but not limited to:
- 88 (A) The promotion of recruitment, expansion, or retention of jobs at such military  
 89 installation or within the military community in which it is located; or
- 90 (B) Preparation for any federal review.
- 91 (3) 'Military community' means a municipality or county that has within its jurisdiction  
 92 a military installation or any other municipality or county that after reasonable review the

93 workforce development division determines is economically impacted to a similar degree  
94 by the presence of a nearby military installation.

95 (4) 'Military installation' means a facility owned and operated by United States Army,  
96 Air Force, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard that shelters military equipment and personnel  
97 and facilitates training and operations for such organizations.

98 (5) 'Public official' shall have the same meaning as in Code Section 50-36-2 or 2 U.S.C.  
99 Section 1602.

100 20-4-131.

101 (a) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, the commissioner of the Technical  
102 College System of Georgia shall administer a grant program to be called the Defense  
103 Community Economic Development Grant Program, which shall serve the purpose of  
104 awarding grants to assist military communities with grant goals.

105 (b) The commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia shall administer such  
106 program and such program's associated funds.

107 (c) All funds that were appropriated for the provision of the Defense Community  
108 Economic Development Fund shall be transferred to the workforce development division  
109 for the provision of the Defense Community Economic Development Grant Program.

110 20-4-132.

111 (a) The amount of any grant awarded pursuant to this part shall be determined by the  
112 commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia on a case-by-case review of  
113 applications which shall include, but shall not be limited to, a consideration of the grant  
114 goal being proposed and the extent to which it:

115 (1) Furthers the relationship between the military community and military installation;

116 (2) Furthers the military installation's economic development investment into the military  
117 community; or

118 (3) Assists in efforts to defend the viability of a military installation from a federal  
119 review.

120 (b) Each military community shall be required as a condition of receipt of any grant  
121 awarded pursuant to this part to match such awarded funds. The commissioner of the  
122 Technical College System of Georgia shall prescribe conditions for releasing grant funds  
123 based upon a military community matching such funds.

124 (c) The commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia shall be authorized to  
125 charge such fees as are reasonable and necessary to offset costs associated with processing  
126 applications submitted pursuant to this part.

127 20-4-133.

128 Any military community may submit an application to the commissioner of the Technical  
129 College System of Georgia for a grant to assist in the pursuance of a grant goal. Such  
130 application shall be submitted on a form and in a manner to be prescribed by the  
131 commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia. Each application shall, at a  
132 minimum, include a statement from the military community applying for such grant as to  
133 how such grant goal will contribute to the economic viability of the military installation  
134 within such military community.

135 20-4-134.

136 The commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia shall promulgate rules and  
137 regulations necessary to implement the purposes of this part."

138 **SECTION 2.**

139 Article 10 of Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
140 Defense Community Economic Development Fund, is amended by repealing and reserving  
141 said Article.

142 **SECTION 3.**

143 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.