

CHAPTER 40

AN ACT concerning the Council on Armed Forces and Veterans' Affairs and amending P.L.1992, c.86.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. Section 2 of P.L.1992, c.86 (C.38A:3-16) is amended to read as follows:

C.38A:3-16 Transfer of Council on Armed Forces and Veterans' Affairs to Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs; membership.

2. The Council on Armed Forces and Veterans' Affairs established in the Department of Commerce and Economic Development pursuant to P.L.1983, c.61 (C.52:27H-45 et seq.) is hereby transferred to and established in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs. The council shall consist of 22 members: two to be appointed by the President of the Senate from the members thereof, no more than one of whom shall be from the same political party; two to be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly from the members thereof, no more than one of whom shall be from the same political party, the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, the Chief Executive Officer and Secretary of the Commerce and Economic Growth Commission, the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the Commissioner of Transportation, the State Treasurer, the Commissioner of Community Affairs, the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, and the Chair of the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, or their designees; and nine public members to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. Eight of the public members shall be representatives of the community and business support groups for New Jersey's military installations and the United States Coast Guard training center.

Each public member shall serve for a term of three years from the date of the member's appointment and until the member's successor is appointed and qualified. Vacancies resulting from causes other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the unexpired term only and shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made.

2. Section 5 of P.L.1992, c.86 (C.38A:3-19) is amended to read as follows:

C.38A:3-19 Purpose of council; responsibilities.

5. The council shall:

a. Be a structural liaison and public relations body on behalf of this State in all matters relating to federal military and naval installations located within this State or proposed to be located herein. The council shall communicate and cooperate with the President of the United States and with all other federal officials and employees and private persons for the effectuation of the purposes of this act.

b. Work with the public and private sectors to maximize the quality of life for all military personnel and their dependents by facilitating access to government services, educational institutions, recreation facilities, and job opportunities.

c. Increase public awareness of military missions performed in New Jersey and the economic impact they have on this State and its citizens.

d. Work with the State and local governments to improve the effectiveness of military installations by facilitating coordinated planning and expedited review of military and Coast Guard permits and other requests.

e. Work with the State and local governments and military and Coast Guard installations to minimize encroachment around military and Coast Guard installations.

f. Convene meetings at least twice a year with installation commanders to discuss how New Jersey can more effectively support military and Coast Guard installations in the State.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved March 7, 2005.