

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 522

2 INTRODUCED BY E. BUTTREY, D. BEDEY, S. BERGLEE, A. BUCKLEY, F. GARNER

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 4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MILITARY STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC
 5 IMPACT TASK FORCE CONCERNING RETENTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
 6 AND FORCE STRUCTURES TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN MONTANA;
 7 ALLOCATING THE TASK FORCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
 8 PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP, EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT, AND DUTIES;
 9 PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

10
 11 WHEREAS, the Montana National Guard provides more than \$158 million in economic impetus to the
 12 State of Montana, and the total federal economic impetus of the Montana Department of Military Affairs and the
 13 National Guard to the State of Montana is over \$415 million; and

14 WHEREAS, Malmstrom Air Force Base provides more than \$655 million in economic impetus to the
 15 State of Montana, airmen stationed at Malmstrom own over 1,200 homes in Montana, military construction and
 16 service contracts provide more than \$53 million to local developers, the base spends more than \$9.4 million for
 17 utilities, and Malmstrom services more than 7,500 miles of roads in Montana, which benefits Montana's
 18 commerce; and

19 WHEREAS, the federal sequestration, fiscal cliff, base realignment and closure activities, and other
 20 cost-cutting measures will put current military missions and assets in Montana and, therefore, Montana's
 21 economic well-being at risk, now and well into the future; and

22 WHEREAS, FOR DECADES THE TASK OF ADVOCATING FOR OUR MILITARY MISSIONS IN MONTANA HAS BEEN
 23 ACCOMPLISHED BY A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION IN CASCADE COUNTY SUPPORTED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE
 24 AREA BUSINESSES, AND THIS ORGANIZATION, THE MONTANA DEFENSE ALLIANCE, HAS BEEN LIMITED BY THE LACK OF
 25 FORMAL STATE OF MONTANA RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT; AND

26 WHEREAS, MOST states with military missions and assets have formed statewide-STATE GOVERNMENT-
 27 SANCTIONED advocacy groups to help protect existing military force structures in their states, identify new
 28 missions, educate the public, and promote economic development tied to the military, and Montana is ~~the last~~

1 ~~state to lack this~~ ONE OF THE FEW STATES LACKING THIS TYPE OF statewide organization, which clearly affects
 2 Montana's ability to be successful as national cuts to the military are implemented; AND

3 WHEREAS, THE CURRENT LEVEL OF COMPETITION FROM OTHER STATES REQUIRES AN ADVOCACY EFFORT
 4 SANCTIONED BY THE STATE OF MONTANA IN ORDER TO RETAIN OUR EXISTING MILITARY ASSETS AND PROMOTE NEW
 5 MISSION OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL AS MILITARY-RELATED MANUFACTURING.

6

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

8

9 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Montana military strategic and economic impact task force --

10 membership -- compensation -- duties. (1) (a) There is a Montana military strategic and economic impact
 11 task force consisting of seven voting members appointed by the governor on recommendation of the person or
 12 entities, if applicable, as provided in subsection (1)(b) and up to three nonvoting members appointed by the
 13 legislature. Each member must be a resident of the state.

14 (b) The voting members are:

15 (i) the adjutant general OR AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S STAFF AS SELECTED BY THE
 16 GOVERNOR;

17 (ii) a member representing the business community as recommended by a statewide organization that
 18 represents Montana businesses;

19 ~~(iii) a member representing the interests of the active duty military in the state as recommended by the~~
 20 ~~state's highest active duty military commander or, in the absence of a recommendation from the commander,~~

21 ~~by the governing body of the county where the military has the highest economic impact in the state~~ A
 22 REPRESENTATIVE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAVING ZONING AUTHORITY OVER ISSUES SUCH AS ENCROACHMENT OF
 23 MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, AS APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY WITH THE LARGEST ACTIVE DUTY
 24 MILITARY FINANCIAL IMPACT IN THE STATE;

25 (iv) a member representing veterans of the armed forces;

26 ~~(v) a member with knowledge about the employment challenges experienced by national guard and~~
 27 ~~federal reserve service members as recommended by a statewide organization that advocates for service~~
 28 ~~members and their employers~~ A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OR MILITARY ADVOCACY

1 ORGANIZATION FROM THE COUNTY WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF MILITARY MEMBERS IN THE STATE, AS APPOINTED BY
2 THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF MILITARY MEMBERS IN THE STATE;

3 (vi) a member representing the enlisted men and women of the armed forces as recommended by a
4 statewide organization that represents the enlisted men and women of the armed forces; and

5 (vii) a member representing military and aerospace manufacturing in the state as recommended by a
6 statewide organization that represents manufacturing businesses in the state.

7 (c) The nonvoting members are:

8 (i) a state senator appointed by the president of the senate;

9 (ii) a state representative appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

10 (iii) a state senator or state representative selected jointly by the minority leaders of the senate and the
11 house of representatives if the senate and the house of representatives are controlled by the same party.

12 (2) (a) The task force shall elect a presiding officer from among its voting members. Task force
13 meetings are subject to the open meetings laws provided in Title 2, chapter 3, part 2.

14 (b) The task force is allocated to the department of commerce for administrative purposes only as
15 provided in 2-15-121, which shall provide staff and administrative support to the task force.

16 (c) Task force members are entitled to reimbursement for expenses as provided in 2-18-501 through
17 2-18-503.

18 (3) The purpose of the task force is to:

19 (a) advocate for retention and development of military missions, installations, and force structures that
20 provide economic development opportunities in the state and serve a role in the defense strategy of the nation;

21 and

22 (b) educate the public, legislature, and congressional delegation about the economic and strategic
23 impact of current and future military development in the state.

24 (4) In fulfilling its purpose under subsection (3), the task force shall:

25 (a) examine potential base realignment and closure actions;

26 (b) study the economic impact that the active and reserve component military missions and force
27 structures in the state have on the state's economy and the strategic impact for the nation of those programs
28 and assets;

1 (c) develop a strategic plan for how to position the state with respect to potential base realignment
 2 and closure actions so that the state has the best possible opportunity to retain and develop future military
 3 economic development opportunities and to play a role in the nation's strategy for national defense;

4 (d) provide regular updates on task force activities to the governor, the president of the senate, and
 5 the speaker of the house of representatives;

6 (e) prepare reports and presentations consistent with its purpose and duties;

7 (f) lobby members of congress and act as a liaison with civilian and military personnel engaged in
 8 making decisions concerning current and potential military missions and active and reserve component force
 9 structures in the state; and

10 (g) work and coordinate with other local and state military advocacy organizations as necessary.

11 (5) Members are appointed to 4-year staggered terms. A legislative member may continue to serve
 12 for the 4 years even if the member's legislative term expires. A member appointed to fill a vacancy may serve
 13 only for the remainder of the previous member's term. A member may be reappointed.

14 (6) The task force shall formulate a budget and submit a copy of that budget to the state
 15 administration and veterans' affairs interim committee by December 31, 2021.

16

17 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the general fund to the
 18 department of commerce:

19 (1) \$250,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, to conduct the study described in [section 1(4)];

20 and

21 (2) \$163,000 for each year of the biennium ending June 30, 2023, for the purposes of implementing
 22 [section 1].

23

24 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Implementation of staggered appointments.** To implement the
 25 staggered appointment criteria established in [section 1(5)], the initial appointments of the following members of
 26 the Montana military strategic and economic impact task force must be for 2 years:

27 (1) the business community representative appointed under [section 1(1)(b)(ii)];

28 (2) the ~~active-duty liaison member~~ LOCAL GOVERNMENT ZONING REPRESENTATIVE appointed under

1 [section 1(1)(b)(iii)]; and

2 (3) the ~~employment challenges member~~ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OR MILITARY ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION
3 REPRESENTATIVE appointed under [section 1(1)(b)(v)].

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5 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
6 integral part of Title 2, chapter 15, part 18, and the provisions of Title 2, chapter 15, part 18, apply to [section 1].

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8 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2021.

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