

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2017 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

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for

Senate Bill 501

BY SENATORS GAUNCH AND STOLLINGS

[Originating in the Committee on Government

Organization; reported on March 25, 2017]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §31-15-5a, relating to creating the Minority Economic Development Advisory
3 Council; providing for composition and duties of the Minority Economic Development
4 Advisory Council; requiring members first appointed be appointed to staggered terms;
5 prohibiting appointed members from serving more than two consecutive terms; providing
6 that an appointed member may continue to serve until his or her successor is appointed;
7 prohibiting members from receiving compensation other than reimbursement for
8 reasonable expenses; and requiring quarterly meetings.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new
2 section, designated §31-15-5a, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 15. WEST VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

§31-15-5a. Minority Economic Development Advisory Council.

1 (a) In order to more effectively address the purposes of this article, there is hereby created
2 the Minority Economic Development Advisory Council to provide assistance to the Director of the
3 Economic Development Authority with developing and implementing policies and procedures to
4 address employment and economic development problems of minority populations in the state.

5 (b) The advisory council shall consist of the following sixteen members:

6 (1) The Executive Director of the West Virginia Economic Development Authority, or his
7 or her designee;

8 (2) The Executive Director of the West Virginia Development Office, or his or her designee;

9 (3) The Executive Director of the West Virginia Small Business Development Office, or his
10 or her designee;

11 (4) The Executive Director of the West Virginia Housing Development Fund, or his or her
12 designee;

13 (5) The Executive Director of the West Virginia Governor’s Workforce Investment Division,
14 or his or her designee;

15 (6) The Executive Director of the West Virginia Development Office of Economic
16 Opportunity, or his or her designee;

17 (7) The Director of the West Virginia Center for Business and Economic Research, or his
18 or her designee;

19 (8) The Director of the Marshall University Center for Business and Economic Research,
20 or his or her designee;

21 (9) The Director of Marshall University for Community and Economic Growth, or his or her
22 designee;

23 (10) The Executive Director of the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs, who shall
24 serve as a nonvoting member; and

25 (11) Six members to be appointed by the Governor who satisfy one of the following criteria:

26 (A) An executive director of a local workforce investment board;

27 (B) An executive director of a local municipal office of economic and community
28 development;

29 (C) An executive director of a local urban renewal authority;

30 (D) A chief executive officer of a local chamber of commerce;

31 (E) An executive director of a local nonprofit community development corporation; and

32 (F) A minority business owner.

33 (c) The advisory council shall perform the following duties:

34 (1) Provide assistance, consultation and support to the Executive Director of the West
35 Virginia Economic Development Authority in regard to addressing employment and economic
36 development problems of minority populations in the state;

37 (2) Provide consultation, assistance and support to local communities in the development
38 of their minority economic development plans;

39 (3) Provide assistance, consultation and support to local communities in the execution of
40 their plans;

41 (4) Provide support to local communities in identifying resources to support their plans;
42 and

43 (5) Work with state executives to ensure that existing law aimed at targeting vulnerable
44 communities is effectively executed.

45 (d) Each member of the advisory council appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of
46 five years. Of the members of the advisory council first appointed, one shall be appointed for a
47 term ending on June 30, 2018, and one each for terms ending one, two, three and four years
48 thereafter. An appointed member shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. An appointed
49 member may continue to serve until his or her successor has been appointed.

50 (e) Members of the advisory council shall not be entitled to compensation for service, but
51 may be reimbursed by the West Virginia Economic Development Authority for all reasonable
52 expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties in a manner consistent with
53 guidelines of the Travel Management Office of the Department of Administration or its successor.

54 (f) The advisory council shall meet quarterly and conduct all meetings in accordance with
55 open governmental meetings proceedings requirements pursuant to article nine-a, chapter six of
56 this code.