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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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### **NUMBER ONE (2010)**

#### **Establishing the Chief Job Creation Officer and the Governor's Economic Development and Job Creation Commission**

#### **Importance of the Issue**

Economic opportunity and free enterprise is the bedrock of a stable and prosperous Commonwealth. Virginia is home to abundant resources, fiscal responsibility and boundless human potential, and the entrepreneurial spirit is evident throughout this great Commonwealth. However, in light of the unprecedented economic difficulties facing Virginia families and business, the unacceptable high unemployment rate, and the ever increasing competitiveness of the global economy, bold and innovative ideas are necessary for the Commonwealth to address this significant challenge. The following measures are the first crucial steps to promoting economic recovery and job creation in Virginia.

#### **Chief Job Creation Officer**

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor under Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and under the laws of the Commonwealth, and subject to my continuing and ultimate authority and responsibility to act in such matters, there is hereby established the position of Chief Job Creation Officer within the Office of the Governor, whose primary responsibilities will be to help coordinate all economic and workforce development and job creation initiatives across the cabinet secretariats and their respective agencies; actively assist with recruiting new industries and job creation opportunities in the Commonwealth; oversee and ensure that all agencies are working together in a coordinated, focused and efficient manner to attract new business, expand existing businesses, and create jobs across the Commonwealth; and all other duties and responsibilities as determined and assigned by the Governor.

The Chief Job Creation Officer shall serve as and be a member of the Governor's Cabinet, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor for a term coincident with that of the Governor making the appointment or until a successor is appointed.

### **Governor's Economic Development and Job Creation Commission**

In furtherance of my commitment to economic development and job creation in the Commonwealth, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor under Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and under the laws of the Commonwealth, including but not limited to Section 2.2-134 of the *Code of Virginia*, and subject to my continuing and ultimate authority and responsibility to act in such matters, I hereby establish the Governor's Economic Development and Job Creation Commission ("Commission") and direct it to begin work immediately.

The Lieutenant Governor, as the Chief Job Creation Officer, shall serve as Co-Chairman of the Commission along with a senior level advisor appointed by the Governor. The Commission shall include the Secretaries of Commerce and Trade, Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Resources, Transportation, Technology, Finance, Education and Administration, or their designees. The Commission shall also include up to 50 citizens of Virginia representing a cross segment of industry and business sectors, including small and rural businesses. All agencies, as deemed necessary by the Chief Job Creation Officer, shall participate and provide assistance as requested. In addition, I reserve the authority to designate any other such citizens as I deem appropriate to sit on the Commission.

The Commission shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Identify impediments to and opportunities for job creation;
2. Review how other states and foreign countries are attracting jobs and how Virginia could replicate and improve upon those initiatives;
3. Review the agencies' role in job creation and make recommendations on how those efforts can be better coordinated to ensure unparalleled efficiency and effectiveness;
4. Make recommendations on new investments and changes to the tax and regulatory environment in the Commonwealth to maintain and increase the Commonwealth's standing as the best place to do business in the United State of America; and
5. Evaluate the current programs and investments designed to develop the workforce and attract and retain businesses in Virginia, and make recommendations on their effectiveness and need for improvement.
6. Assist the Cabinet and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership to identify and target industries and businesses to recruit to Virginia.

The Commission shall be organized into the following subcommittees reflecting key economic development priorities for the Commonwealth:

1. Business recruitment and retention
2. Economically challenged regions and localities
3. Energy research, exploration and production
4. Small business
5. Tourism and film marketing
6. Real estate and construction

The Commission shall coordinate its efforts with the Office of Education, Virginia's institutions of higher education and relevant Governor's commissions and task forces addressing workforce development and training.

Staff support for the Commission shall be provided by the Office of the Governor, including staff for the Chief Job Creation Officer, the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, the various other secretaries and their agencies represented on the Commission, and such other agencies as may be designated by the Chief Job Creation Officer. All executive branch agencies shall cooperate fully with the Commission and shall render such assistance as may be requested by it.

An estimated 2,000 hours of staff time will be required to support the commission. Such funding as is necessary for the term of the Commission's existence shall be provided from sources, including both private and appropriated funds, contributed or appropriated for purposes related to the work of the Commission, as authorized by Section 2.2-135(B) of the Code of Virginia. Direct expenditures for the Commission's work are estimated to be \$15,000, exclusive of staff support.

The Commission shall provide its first report of recommendations and action items to the Governor no later than October 16, 2010. The Commission shall thereafter provide periodic supplemental reports setting forth additional recommendations and actions items, and reporting on agency progress implementing the Commission's recommendations adopted by the Governor. Pursuant to Section 2.2-135 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Commission shall remain in effect for a period of one year, unless extended by the issuance of a new executive order for a period not to exceed one additional year.

**Effective Date of the Executive Order**

This Executive Order shall be effective upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect unless amended or rescinded by further executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia this 16th day of January, 2010.

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Robert F. McDonnell, Governor

Attest:

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Secretary of the Commonwealth