

Assembly Bill No. 442

CHAPTER 298

An act to add and repeal Section 59 of the Military and Veterans Code, relating to military bases.

[Approved by Governor September 21, 2015. Filed with
Secretary of State September 21, 2015.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 442, Irwin. Governor's Military Council.

Existing law establishes the California Military Department, which contains the California National Guard, the State Military Reserve, and other offices.

This bill would codify the Governor's Military Council, under the direction of the California Military Department, and would provide for appointment to the council by the Governor. The bill would require that the appointments shall include, but not be limited to, bipartisan representatives from both houses of the Legislature. The provisions of this bill would be repealed on January 1, 2021.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares as follows:

(a) California is home to 29 federal military installations and the United States Department of Defense directly employs more than 236,000 people in California. In an effort to protect and expand the military's vital role in national security and California's economy, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. established the Governor's Military Council and appointed former Congresswoman and Under Secretary of State Ellen Tauscher as chair. The Governor's Military Council works to protect California's military installations and operations amid ongoing United States Department of Defense budget cuts, and leverage changes in federal military strategy to position the state to continue innovation and leadership in its military mission.

(b) The Military Council articulates the unique national defense value of California installations, and the importance of the Californians and businesses that support them. The Military Council also provides insight to state policy leaders on how state government can ensure that California serves as an operating environment for military and defense operations.

(c) The Military Council has convened several meetings throughout the state over the last year to tour installations and gather information and input from military commanders, business leaders, and community support

organizations. The Military Council will deliver a report with recommendations to state leaders in the summer of 2015.

(d) The effect of sequestration and the continuing prospect of base reduction and closure necessitate that California maintain vigilance and speak with a unified voice to protect and enhance the United States Department of Defense mission in California.

SEC. 2. Section 59 is added to the Military and Veterans Code, to read:

59. (a) There is in the state government a Governor's Military Council (council) that shall serve under the direction of the Military Department and consist of members appointed by the Governor. The council shall advise the Governor on efforts to retain military installations and operations within this state that are necessary for the defense of the nation, and to coordinate and focus those efforts.

(b) The council shall include, but not be limited to, bipartisan representatives from both houses of the Legislature. Senate representatives shall be nominated by the Senate Committee on Rules and Assembly representatives shall be nominated by the Speaker of the Assembly.

(c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2021, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2021, deletes or extends that date.