

1 Whereas, strong supporting communities are invaluable to the military institutions in
2 our State and benefit the military as a whole and its continuing operations throughout the nation;
3 Now, therefore,

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with
6 the Department of Commerce, shall study the creation of military economic zones around
7 communities that host the military installations in this State. The study shall consider at least all
8 of the following:

- 9 (1) The feasibility of creating economic zones in and around both of the
10 following:
 - 11 a. Communities that host and support the military installations in this
12 State.
 - 13 b. Department of Veterans Affairs Hospitals that are located more than
14 150 miles from military installations in this State.
- 15 (2) Methods of incorporating existing economic development programs,
16 including Collaboration for Prosperity Zones, into prospective military
17 economic zones.
- 18 (3) Opportunities to leverage the unique and valuable characteristics of the
19 regions and communities that support our military installations.
- 20 (4) Ways to create synergies among the duties and missions of the various
21 Department of Commerce entities that specialize in economic development,
22 such as the Rural Infrastructure Authority, Rural Economic Development
23 Division, and the NC Main Street and Rural Planning Center, as well as the
24 North Carolina Military Affairs Commission.
- 25 (5) The criteria used for previous recommendations for closures of military
26 installations by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission and
27 the extent to which economic development initiatives can bolster the
28 efficiency and effectiveness of the military installations in this State in
29 advance of future BRAC recommendations.
- 30 (6) Best practices from other states for economic development for communities
31 hosting military installations.

32 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs shall report the
33 findings of the study and any legislative recommendations to the Joint Legislative Oversight
34 Committee on General Government and the Fiscal Research Division on or before January 1,
35 2020.

36 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.