

Kaine Signs Bouchard Bill Increasing Funding for Technological and Economic Development in Virginia

For Immediate Release

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Richmond, VA – At a ceremonial event today, Governor Timothy M. Kaine signed legislation authored by Delegate Joseph Bouchard (D-Virginia Beach) that will encourage more research of robotics, unmanned vehicle systems and advanced shipbuilding at the Commonwealth's private and public colleges and universities. The funds will allow Virginia institutions to devote more resources to developing new technologies with industrial and military applications.

Introduced in January 2009, HB 2415 adds robotics and unmanned vehicle research to the list of programs eligible for state funding. The new law will help keep Virginia at the forefront of technological development and will also pave the way for job growth throughout the Commonwealth.

“This law will encourage the research and development of new technologies right here in Virginia, and it will create jobs in the process,” said Bouchard, “By focusing on new technologies with military and industrial applications we can remain on the cutting edge and keep our economy moving forward.”

The Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance publicly thanked Delegate Bouchard for his authorship of the bill. Signed by Co-Chairs Mayor Paul D. Fraim (Norfolk) and Mayor Joe S. Frank (Newport News), it acknowledged the vision and scope of Bouchard's bill in creating growth industries and jobs for the region.

Bouchard, former Commanding Officer of Naval Station Norfolk, was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in November 2007 representing the 83rd District. He serves on the Finance Committee, the Science and Technology Committee, the Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee, and the Joint Subcommittee on Comprehensive Services for At-Risk Youth and Families.

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