Unofficial Copy P1

1999 Regular Session 9lr0206 CF 9lr0197

By: The Speaker (Administration) and Delegates Conroy, Owings, Mitchell, Linton, Pitkin, Rosenberg, and McKee

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 1999 Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2	Department of '	Veterans Affairs

3	FOR the purpose of creating the Department of Veterans Affairs as a principal
4	department of State government; providing for the appointment, powers, duties
5	and salary of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; organizing the Maryland
6	Veterans Commission, Maryland Veterans' Home Commission, and War
7	Memorial Commission under the Department; providing for the staffing,
8	administration, and duties of the Maryland Veterans Commission; authorizing
9	the Maryland Veterans Commission to delegate certain powers and duties under
10	certain circumstances; repealing certain requirements of the Maryland Veterans
11	Commission; revising certain definitions; correcting certain terms; repealing
12	certain obsolete provisions; defining certain terms; specifying that the publisher
13	of the Annotated Code of Maryland, in consultation with the Department of

- Legislative Services, shall correct agency names and titles in the Code to 14
- conform to the changes made by this Act; and generally relating to the 15
- Department of Veterans Affairs. 16
- 17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- Article State Government 18
- 19 Section 8-201; 9-801 through 9-807, inclusive, to be under the new part "Part
- 20 IV. War Memorial Commission"; 9-901 to be under the amended subtitle 21 "Subtitle 9. Department of Veterans Affairs" and the amended part "Part I.
- Established"; 9-904, 9-905, 9-907, 9-909 through 9-915, inclusive, 9-920, 22
- 23 9-925, and 9-926
- 24 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 25 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)
- 26 BY adding to
- Article State Government 27
- 28 Section 9-902
- 29 Annotated Code of Maryland
- (1995 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement) 30

1 2 3 4 5 6	BY repealing Article - State Government Section 9-906; and the subtitle designation "Subtitle 8. War Memorial Commission" in Title 9 Annotated Code of Maryland (1995 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)							
7 8 9 10 11 12	Annotated Code of Maryland							
13 14			IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF the Laws of Maryland read as follows:					
15			Article - State Government					
16	8-201.							
	(a) 21 principal Branch.		ecutive Branch of the State government shall have not more than ents, each of which shall embrace a broad, functional area of that					
20 21	(b) government	-	ncipal departments of the Executive Branch of the State					
22		(1)	Aging;					
23		(2)	Agriculture;					
24		(3)	Budget and Management;					
25		(4)	Business and Economic Development;					
26		(5)	the Environment;					
27		(6)	General Services;					
28		(7)	Health and Mental Hygiene;					
29		(8)	Housing and Community Development;					
30		(9)	Human Resources;					
31		(10)	Juvenile Justice;					
32		(11)	Labor, Licensing, and Regulation;					

- (12) Natural Resources;
 (13) Public Safety and Correctional Services;
 (14) State Police; [and]
 (15) Transportation; AND
- 6 Subtitle 9. DEPARTMENT OF Veterans AFFAIRS.
- 7 Part I. [Definition] ESTABLISHED.

VETERANS AFFAIRS.

8 9-901.

5

- $9 \hspace{0.4cm}$ (A) $\hspace{0.4cm}$ IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS 10 INDICATED.
- 11 (B) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.
- 12 (C) "SECRETARY" MEANS THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.
- 13 (D) Except as otherwise provided in [§§ 9-913 and 9-914] § 9-913 of this
- 14 subtitle, [in this subtitle,] "veteran" means an individual who served on active duty
- 15 in the armed forces of the United States, OTHER THAN FOR TRAINING, AND WAS
- 16 DISCHARGED OR RELEASED UNDER CONDITIONS OTHER THAN DISHONORABLE.

17 9-902.

- 18 (A) THERE IS A DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, ESTABLISHED AS A 19 PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT.
- 20 (B) THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT IS THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS
- 21 AFFAIRS WHO SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE ADVICE AND
- 22 CONSENT OF THE SENATE.

(16)

- 23 (C) (1) THE SECRETARY SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR AND
- 24 IS RESPONSIBLE DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNOR. THE SECRETARY SHALL ADVISE THE
- 25 GOVERNOR ON ALL MATTERS ASSIGNED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND IS RESPONSIBLE
- 26 FOR CARRYING OUT THE GOVERNOR'S POLICIES ON THESE MATTERS.
- 27 (2) THE SECRETARY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE
- 28 DEPARTMENT AND SHALL ESTABLISH GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES TO PROMOTE
- 29 THE ORDERLY AND EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT.
- 30 (3) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE
- 31 SECRETARY MAY ESTABLISH, REORGANIZE, OR CONSOLIDATE AREAS OF
- 32 RESPONSIBILITY IN THE DEPARTMENT AS NECESSARY TO FULFILL THE DUTIES
- 33 ASSIGNED BY THE SECRETARY.

1 2 CARRY O	(4) OUT THE			RY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO THIS SUBTITLE.			
3 (D) 4 BUDGET		ECRETA	ARY IS E	NTITLED TO THE SALARY PROVIDED IN THE STATE			
5	Part II. Maryland Veterans Commission.						
6 9-904.	6 9-904.						
7 (a) 8 meanings	7 (a) In this Part II of this [subtitle] SUBTITLE, the following words have the 8 meanings indicated.						
9 (b)	"Comr	nission" n	neans the	Maryland Veterans Commission.			
10 (c)	"Direc	tor" mean	s the Dire	ector of the Maryland Veterans Commission.			
11 9-905.							
12 There	is a Mary	land Vete	erans Con	nmission IN THE DEPARTMENT.			
13 [9-906.							
				t unit and, except by statute, may not be government.]			
16 9-907.							
17 (a)	(1)	The Co	ommissio	n consists of the following 26 members:			
18 19 Veterans'	Home Co	(i) mmission		x officio member, the Chairman of the Maryland			
20		(ii)	25 men	nbers appointed by the Governor.			
21	(2)	Of the	25 appoir	nted members:			
22 23 the State;		(i)	1 shall	be appointed from each of the 8 congressional districts in			
24		(ii)	1 shall	be appointed from the State at large; and			
25 26 Governor	by each o	(iii) f the follo		be appointed from a list of individuals submitted to the ganizations:			
27			1.	the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc.;			
28			2.	the American Legion;			
29			3.	the Amvets;			

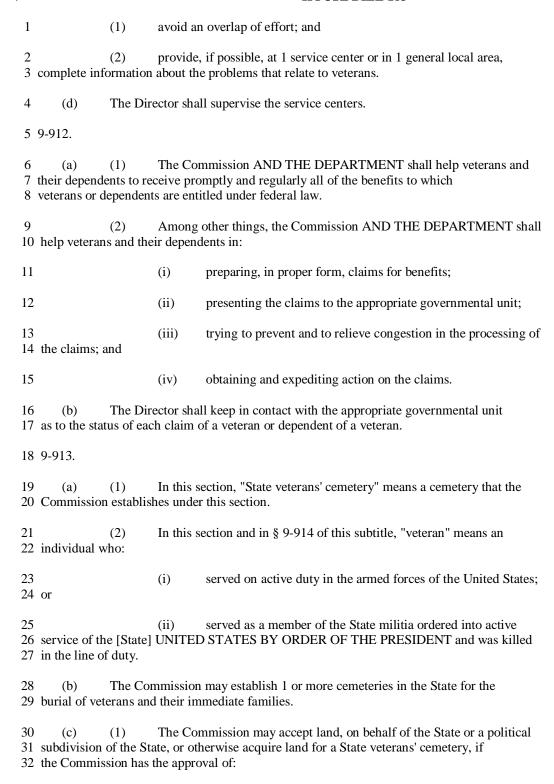
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(b)

A member of the Commission:

1	4	the Catholic War Veterans;			
	4.	·			
2	5.	the Disabled American Veterans;			
3	6.	the Fleet Reserve Association;			
4	7.	the Jewish War Veterans;			
5	8.	the Marine Corps League;			
6	9.	the Maryland Retired Officers Association;			
7	10.	the Military Order of the Purple Heart;			
8	11.	the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association;			
9 10 AMERICAN VETERANS;	12.	the [Polish-American War Veterans] POLISH LEGION OF			
11	13.	the Veterans of Foreign Wars;			
12	14.	the Veterans of World War I;			
13	15.	the Vietnam Veterans of America; and			
14	16.	the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.			
15 (b) Each member must be a resident of the State and a veteran whose final 16 separation from active service with a uniformed service of the United States was 17 under honorable conditions.					
18 (c) (1) The term	n of an a	ppointed member is 7 years.			
19 (2) The term 20 terms provided for members of		appointed members are staggered as required by the mmission on October 1, 1984.			
21 (3) At the en 22 appointed and qualifies.	(-)				
23 (4) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for 24 the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.					
25 9-908.	25 9-908.				
From among the members of the Commission, the Governor shall appoint a chairman.					
28 9-909.					
29 (a) The Commission	shall de	termine the times and places of its meetings.			

1		(1)	may not	receive compensation; but		
	expenses und budget.	(2) ler the St		ommission approves, is entitled to reimbursement for tate Travel Regulations, as provided in the State		
5 6	(c) STAFF SUP			n may employ a staff] DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE OMMISSION in accordance with the State budget.		
7	9-910.					
8 9	(a) The [Commission] SECRETARY, WITH THE COMMISSION'S APPROVAL, shall appoint a Director for the Commission.					
10	(b)	The Dir	ector is e	ntitled to the salary provided in the State budget.		
11	(c)	In additi	ion to any	duties set forth elsewhere, the Director shall:		
12 13	not neglecte	(1) d; and	survey t	he State to ensure that veterans and their dependents are		
14		(2)	perform	any other duty that the Commission directs.		
15	9-911.					
16 17	(a) be the princi			shall have a service center in Baltimore City, which shall Commission.		
18	(b)	(1)	The Cor	nmission may:		
				have any additional service centers that the Commission ble to facilitate and expedite the servicing of claims of		
22 23	longer consi	ders nece	(ii) essary.	close any additional service center that the Commission no		
24		(2)	The Cor	nmission shall try to locate each additional service center:		
25 26	veterans:		(i)	centrally in the area to be served so that the greatest number of		
27 28	inconvenien	ce; and		1. have access with the least possible delay, travel, and		
29				2. receive, as far as possible, personal attention; and		
30			(ii)	in space that is provided rent-free.		
31 32	(c) possible, wit			AND THE DEPARTMENT shall coordinate, as much as te units to:		

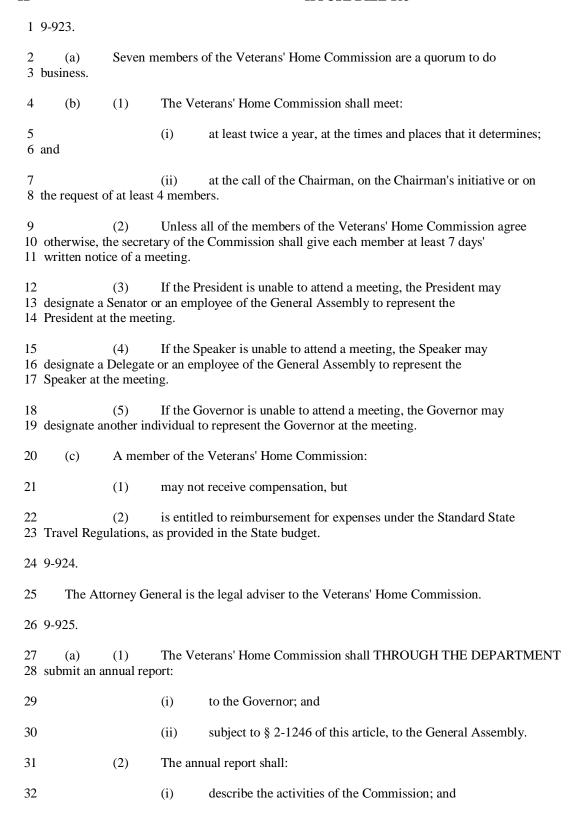


1 2	cemetery is to be loca	(i) nted;	the governing body of the county where the State veterans'
3	the State veterans' ce	(ii) metery is	the delegation in the General Assembly for the county where to be located; and
5		(iii)	the Board of Public Works.
6 7	(2) Commission shall give		ring a location for a proposed State veterans' cemetery, the to land that is near a national memorial battle site.
8 9	(d) (1) cemetery.	The Cor	mmission shall maintain and supervise each State veterans'
10 11	(2) supervision of the Co		shington Cemetery Board of Trustees shall be under the n.
		ovide a p	to the limitations in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the lot in a State veterans' cemetery, without charge, to an rements of this section.
		on shall al	rder in which the Commission receives the applications for lot a plot in the State veterans' cemetery that is closest and has an available plot.
	(f) (1) be a veteran or a mer requirements of this	nber of th	ify for a plot in a State veterans' cemetery, the applicant must be immediate family of a veteran who meets the n.
21 22	(2) forces.	The vete	eran must have an honorable discharge from the armed
23	(3)	The vete	eran must have been a resident of the State:
24		(i)	when the veteran entered the armed forces;
25		(ii)	when the veteran died; or
26 27	compelling, the Com	(iii) mission v	for 20 years, unless, for a reason that the Commission finds waives the time period.
28 29	·O,		n a State veterans' cemetery, an applicant shall submit to n on the form that the Commission provides.
30	(h) (1)	In a plot	that is allotted to a veteran, the Commission shall bury:
31		(i)	the veteran; and
32 33	member can be burie	(ii) ed in a spa	any member of the immediate family of the veteran if the family are above or below the veteran.

	to exceed \$1 allow for inf		(i) t, subject	With each plot, the Commission shall provide 1 grave liner not to an annual increase of not more than 5 percent to
4 5	liner.		(ii)	For an eligible veteran, the Commission shall pay for the grave
6 7	by the family	or estate	(iii) e.	For an eligible family member, the grave liner shall be paid for
8	(i)	(1)	The Con	nmission shall bury the veteran without charge.
9 10	may[:	(2)	For buri	al of a member of the immediate family, the Commission
11			(i)]	set a fee that does not exceed the cost of burial[; or
12 13	that does no	t exceed	(ii) the cost o	accept, from the social security burial allowance, an amount f the burial].
14	9-914.			
15 16	The Cor in the State.	nmission	shall kee	ep a registry of the graves of veterans who are buried
17	9-915.			
18	(a)	In this se	ection, "v	reterans' memorials and monuments" means:
19 20	established 1	(1) pursuant		yland Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Associated Land as desolution No. 22 of 1983; [and]
21 22	established 1	(2) pursuant		yland Korean War Memorial and Associated Land as desolution No. 3 of 1985; AND
23 24	AS ESTABI	(3) LISHED		ARYLAND WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL AND ASSOCIATED LAND ANT TO ARTICLE 41, § 18-303 OF THE CODE.
25 26	(b) the Marylan			ns' Memorials and Monuments Program administered by ission.
27 28	(c) [and] securit			ne Program is to provide for the operation, maintenance, VATION of veterans' memorials and monuments.
29 30	(d) the budget:	In furthe	erance of	these purposes, the Commission may, as provided for in
31 32	or	(1)	lease lan	nd on behalf of the State or a political subdivision of the State;

1 2	monument.	(2)	acquire land that has been improved by construction of a memorial or
3	(e) provisions of		mmission] SECRETARY may adopt regulations to carry out the ion.
5 6	(f) management	(1) of the ve	The Commission shall, as provided for in the budget, provide for the sterans' memorials and monuments as provided in this section.
			THE COMMISSION MAY DELEGATE ANY OF ITS POWERS AND DUTIES ION TO A SPECIAL COMMISSION OR BOARD CREATED BY THE APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR.
10 11	\ U /		nmission may acquire, hold, use, and improve property for the subsection (c) of this section.
12 13	(h) Commission		to Title 7 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, the
14		(1)	accept gifts or grants;
15 16	grant; and	(2)	unless otherwise provided, spend the principal and income of a gift or
17 18	State or any	(3) other sec	invest all or part of the principal income in general obligations of the curity.
19			Part III. Maryland Veterans' Home Commission.
20	9-917.		
21 22			this subtitle, "Home" means the home for veterans that the Home Commission supervises.
23	9-918.		
24 25	` '		poses of the Maryland Veterans' Home Commission are to operate State a home for veterans.
26 27			neral Assembly declares the purposes of the Maryland Veterans' to be of general benefit to the veterans of the State.
28	9-919.		
29	This Par	t III of th	is subtitle does not limit any power or activity of:
30		(1)	a unit of the State government;
31		(2)	a political subdivision of the State; or
32		(3)	any person who is interested in veterans in the State.

1	9-920.					
2	There is a Maryland Veterans' Home Commission IN THE DEPARTMENT.					
3	9-921.					
4	(a)	The Vet	erans' Ho	me Commission consists of the following 15 members:		
5 6	consent of th	(1) 11 individuals appointed by the Governor with the advice and he Senate; and				
7		(2)	as ex off	icio members:		
8			(i)	the Governor;		
9			(ii)	the President of the Senate;		
10			(iii)	the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and		
11			(iv)	the Chairman of the Maryland Veterans Commission.		
12	(b)	(1)	The term	n of an appointed member is 4 years.		
13 14	terms provid	(2) led for m	The terms of the appointed members are staggered as required by the embers of the Veterans' Home Commission on October 1, 1984.			
15 16	(3) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.					
17 18	(4) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.					
	9 (c) As far as is practicable and is consistent with the purposes and goals of the 0 Veterans' Home Commission, the Governor shall choose appointed members so as to 1 have a broad distribution from among:					
22		(1)	veterans	and veterans' groups; and		
23		(2)	the geog	raphical areas of the State.		
24	9-922.					
	` '	From among its members, the Veterans' Home Commission shall elect a secretary, and any other officers that the Commission considers				
28 29	3 (b) The manner of election of officers and their terms of office shall be as the Veterans' Home Commission determines.					



1 2	(ii) include any recommendations for furthering the purposes of the Commission.
3	(b) As far as practicable, the Veterans' Home Commission shall cooperate with persons and public agencies to carry out the purposes and goals of the Commission.
5	9-926.
6 7	(a) The Veterans' Home Commission may WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY adopt regulations to:
8	(1) govern itself; and
9	(2) carry out the purposes and goals of the Commission.
10 11	(b) (1) The Veterans' Home Commission may take any necessary and proper action to carry out a specific power under this Part III of this subtitle.
12 13	(2) Subject to the legislative purposes of this Part III of this subtitle, the Veterans' Home Commission may make contracts and other legal agreements.
14 15	(c) (1) The Veterans' Home Commission may delegate any of its powers to a committee of 1 or more of its members or to the Commandant of the Home.
16 17	(2) If the Veterans' Home Commission delegates any power to a committee of its members, the committee:
18 19	(i) may not incur any expenses without the consent of the Commission; and
	(ii) at each regular meeting of the Commission or more often as it directs, shall submit to the Commission a report on any action that the committee has taken since its last report.
23	9-927.
24	(a) The Veterans' Home Commission shall:
25 26	(1) maintain and supervise generally the Home in accordance with this Part III of this subtitle; and
27 28	(2) adopt any regulation that is needed for management of the Home, including regulations for admission, maintenance, and discharge of its residents.
29 30	(b) (1) The Veterans' Home Commission may appoint a Commandant for the Home and employ any other staff that is needed to manage the Home properly.
	(2) In appointing or employing staff, the Veterans' Home Commission shall give preference to a veteran who has an honorable discharge from the armed forces.

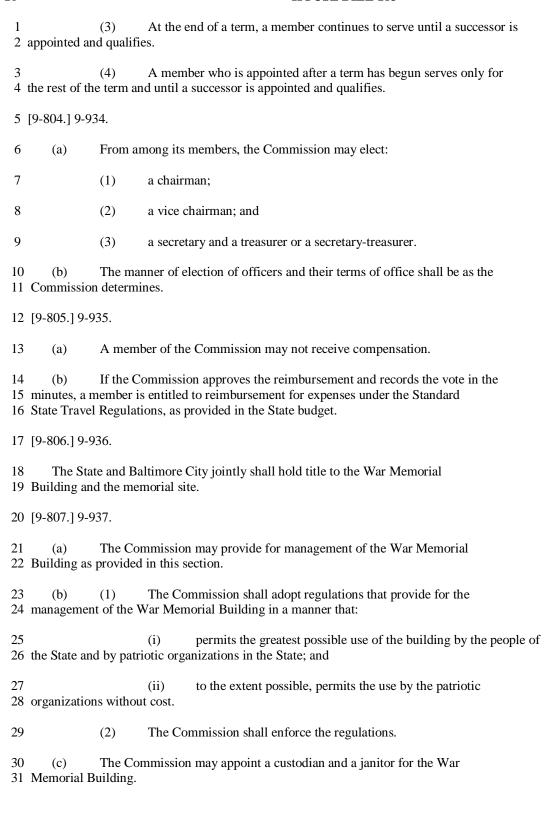
	of the Home for the service			erans' Home Commission shall set the salary for each official does not exceed the salary paid by similar institutions
4		(4)	The Cor	nmandant shall:
5			(i)	serve at the pleasure of the Veterans' Home Commission; and
6 7	requires.		(ii)	perform any duty that the Veterans' Home Commission
10			oloying st	eterans' Home Commission delegates to the Commandant aff, the Commission shall hold the Commandant ions of each individual whom the Commandant
12	9-928.			
13 14	` /			th the regulations of the Veterans' Home Commission and l be open to a veteran who:
15		(1)	has an h	onorable discharge from the armed forces; and
16		(2)	is a resid	lent of the State.
17 18	(b) reasonable f	(1) ee for res		erans' Home Commission may charge an individual a the Home.
21	the ability of	the resid	ridual to pent in the	erans' Home Commission shall set the fee in accordance with pay. However, the fee may not exceed the cost of Home and shall allow the resident enough money for uses.
23 24	` '		•	e discharged in accordance with the regulations of the and applicable law.
25	9-929.			
	(a) Commission			purposes and goals of the Veterans' Home Commission, the d, use, improve, and convey property.
28 29				other power under this section, to carry out the purposes e Commission, the Commission:
30		(1)	may acc	ept a gift or grant; and
31 32	affirmative v	(2) vote of at		ne terms of a gift or grant require otherwise, on an nembers of the Commission, may:
33			(i)	spend the principal and income of the gift or grant; or

The terms of a member are staggered as required by the terms

30

(2)

31 provided for members of the Commission on October 1, 1984.



- 1 (d) The Commission may use, for the maintenance and administration of the
- 2 building, any funds that the General Assembly or the Mayor and City Council of
- 3 Baltimore appropriate for those purposes.
- 4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the publisher of the
- 5 Annotated Code of Maryland, subject to the approval of the Department of Legislative
- 6 Services, shall correct any agency names and titles throughout the Code that are
- 7 rendered incorrect by this Act.
- 8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
- 9 October 1, 1999.