

# SENATE BILL 606

P1, F2

6lr3186  
CF 6lr1637

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By: **Senator Waugh**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland College Collaboration for Student Veterans Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland College Collaboration for Student Veterans  
4 Commission; providing for the membership and appointment and terms of members  
5 of the Commission; requiring the Commission to elect the chair, vice chair, and  
6 secretary each year; requiring the Commission to meet a certain number of times  
7 each year; providing that a member of the Commission may not receive certain  
8 compensation, but may receive reimbursement for certain expenses under certain  
9 regulations; providing for the duties of the Commission; and generally relating to the  
10 Maryland College Collaboration for Student Veterans Commission.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – State Government

13 Section 9–949 through 9–954 to be under the new part “Part VII. Maryland College  
14 Collaboration for Student Veterans Commission”

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – State Government**

20 **9–947. RESERVED.**

21 **9–948. RESERVED.**

22 **PART VII. MARYLAND COLLEGE COLLABORATION FOR STUDENT VETERANS**  
23 **COMMISSION.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **9-949.**

2 (A) IN THIS PART THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
3 INDICATED.

4 (B) "COLLEGE COLLABORATION" MEANS THE MARYLAND COLLEGE  
5 COLLABORATION FOR STUDENT VETERANS, MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
6 BETWEEN THE STATE AND MARYLAND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
7 DATED JANUARY 31, 2011.

8 (C) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE MARYLAND COLLEGE COLLABORATION  
9 FOR STUDENT VETERANS COMMISSION.

10 **9-950.**

11 THERE IS A MARYLAND COLLEGE COLLABORATION FOR STUDENT VETERANS  
12 COMMISSION IN THE DEPARTMENT.

13 **9-951.**

14 (A) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

15 (1) THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, OR THE SECRETARY'S  
16 DESIGNEE;

17 (2) THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S  
18 DESIGNEE; AND

19 (3) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF ANY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER  
20 EDUCATION IN THE STATE THAT ELECTS TO PARTICIPATE.

21 (B) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FROM A LIST OF THREE QUALIFIED  
23 INDIVIDUALS SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR BY THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER  
24 EDUCATION SEEKING TO BE REPRESENTED ON THE COMMISSION.

25 (C) (1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER IS 2 YEARS.

26 (2) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL  
27 A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

28 **9-952.**

1           **THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT ANNUALLY A CHAIR, A VICE CHAIR, AND A**  
2 **SECRETARY FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

3 **9-953.**

4           **(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES EACH YEAR.**

5           **(B) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:**

6                   **(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE**  
7 **COMMISSION; BUT**

8                   **(2) MAY RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE**  
9 **STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

10 **9-954.**

11           **THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

12                   **(1) WORK TO ENSURE THE EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS OF RETURNING**  
13 **VETERANS, INCLUDING THEIR RECRUITMENT, SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION INTO**  
14 **HIGHER EDUCATION, RETENTION, AND EVENTUAL GRADUATION;**

15                   **(2) FACILITATE THE SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES AMONG**  
16 **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND STATE AGENCIES REGARDING**  
17 **ACADEMIC TRANSITION PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT SERVICES DESIGNED FOR**  
18 **RETURNING VETERANS;**

19                   **(3) WORK WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE**  
20 **TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TO VETERANS, AS SET FORTH IN THE**  
21 **COLLEGE COLLABORATION:**

22                           **(I) AWARENESS OF VETERAN REINTEGRATION CHALLENGES;**

23                           **(II) COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION OF AVAILABLE**  
24 **VETERAN SERVICES;**

25                           **(III) A DESIGNATED “ONE DOOR” OFFICE THAT COORDINATES**  
26 **VETERAN SERVICES AND SUPPORTS;**

27                           **(IV) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES;**

28                           **(V) FINANCIAL AID AND GI BILL SUPPORT SERVICES; AND**

1                   **(VI) PEER SUPPORT GROUPS; AND**

2                   **(4) PUBLISH AN ANNUAL REPORT AND ANY OTHER MATERIAL THE**  
3 **COMMISSION CONSIDERS NECESSARY.**

4                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
5 October 1, 2016.