

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Joint Resolution 4 (Delegate Bagnall, *et al.*)

Rules and Executive Nominations

Commission to Establish a Maryland Women Veterans Memorial

This joint resolution urges the Governor to create a commission for the purpose of establishing a Maryland Women Veterans Memorial.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Compliance with the joint resolution can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: Women have served in wars and conflicts throughout U.S. history, beginning with the Revolutionary War, and have served formally in the military since the establishment of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901. The Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 granted women permanent status in the military. Since then, federal legislation has been enacted to expand opportunities for women in the military and women's access to veteran's benefits.

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) reports that women represent approximately 20% of new recruits, 15% of active duty military members, and 18% of the guard and reserve forces. NCSL also reports that, as of March 2019, at least 28 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have enacted legislation to establish a female veteran program, designate a commemorative day or month, or provide for special license plates.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, in 2016, women veterans represented approximately 9% of the U.S. veteran population and approximately 13% of Maryland's veteran population.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office; Secretary of State; U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs; National Conference of State Legislatures; Department of Legislative Services

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mm/jc

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