
By: **Delegates Brown, Barve, Bronrott, Conway, Goldwater, Hecht, Heller,
Hubbard, Kopp, Krysiak, Montague, Petzold, Pitkin, and Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission to Study the Needs of Low-Wage Marylanders**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Commission to Study the Needs of Low-Wage
4 Marylanders; requiring the Commission to study issues relating to poverty and
5 the needs of low-wage Marylanders; requiring the Commission to submit
6 annually to the Governor and the General Assembly a report with findings and
7 recommendations; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
8 relating to the Commission to Study the Needs of Low-Wage Marylanders.

9 BY adding to

10 Article - Labor and Employment

11 Section 3-801 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 8. Commission to Study the
12 Needs of Low-Wage Marylanders"

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (1991 Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

17 **Article - Labor and Employment**

18 **SUBTITLE 8. COMMISSION TO STUDY THE NEEDS OF LOW-WAGE MARYLANDERS.**

19 3-801.

20 (A) THERE IS A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE NEEDS OF LOW-WAGE
21 MARYLANDERS.

22 (B) THE COMMISSION SHALL BE COMPOSED OF 17 MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS:

23 (1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE
24 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

1 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE
2 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

3 (3) TWO REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AS
4 FOLLOWS:

5 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD; AND

6 (II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY;

7 (4) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND
8 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT;

9 (5) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
10 MENTAL HYGIENE;

11 (6) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
12 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT;

13 (7) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
14 RESOURCES;

15 (8) TWO LOCAL DIRECTORS FROM SOCIAL SERVICES APPOINTED BY THE
16 SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES;

17 (9) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING,
18 AND REGULATION;

19 (10) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CENTER FOR POVERTY SOLUTIONS;

20 (11) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR THE
21 POOR;

22 (12) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF
23 COUNTIES' HUMAN SERVICES AFFILIATE; AND

24 (13) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND CHAMBER OF
25 COMMERCE.

26 (C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION.

27 (D) THE COMMISSION SHALL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING ON OR BEFORE
28 OCTOBER 1, 1999.

29 (E) THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND REGULATION SHALL
30 PROVIDE STAFF TO THE COMMISSION.

31 (F) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO:

1 (1) STUDY DATA AND OTHER RESEARCH MAINTAINED BY THE STATE
2 AND OTHER STATES AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT RELATE TO POVERTY
3 AND THE NEEDS OF LOW-WAGE MARYLANDERS;

4 (2) DETERMINE AND ASSESS THE FACTORS, INCLUDING ECONOMIC AND
5 DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS, AND PUBLIC POLICIES THAT AFFECT THE NEEDS OF
6 LOW-WAGE MARYLANDERS;

7 (3) ASSESS THE IMPACT OF LOW-WAGE MARYLANDERS ON SMALL
8 BUSINESSES LOCATED IN AREAS OF POVERTY AND ON ECONOMIC GROWTH IN
9 REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT MARKETS;

10 (4) DETERMINE METHODS TO STIMULATE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC
11 PARTNERSHIPS DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE EARNINGS AND EMPLOYMENT
12 OPPORTUNITIES OF LOW-WAGE MARYLANDERS;

13 (5) WORK WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND HIGHER EDUCATION
14 FACILITIES TO DETERMINE WAYS TO INCREASE THE EARNINGS AND EMPLOYMENT
15 OPPORTUNITIES OF LOW-WAGE MARYLANDERS;

16 (6) DEVELOP COST ESTIMATES FOR EXPANDING CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES
17 TO THOSE FAMILIES WITH INCOMES 200 PERCENT BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY
18 LEVEL, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON A PLAN TO PHASE IN SUBSIDIES;

19 (7) SURVEY HOUSING COSTS BY LOCALITY AND MAKE
20 RECOMMENDATIONS ON ADEQUATE HOUSING SUBSIDIES FOR LOW-WAGE
21 MARYLANDERS;

22 (8) HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING DATA;
23 AND

24 (9) DEVELOP ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE COMMISSION
25 CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE FOR CHANGES IN STATUTES, REGULATIONS,
26 ORGANIZATION, OR PROCEDURES THAT WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF LOW-WAGE
27 MARYLANDERS.

28 (G) THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
29 IN AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, PURSUANT TO § 2-1246 OF THE
30 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ON OR BEFORE
31 OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 July 1, 1999. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of June
34 30, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
35 abrogated and of no further force and effect.