
By: **Senators Lawlah, Conway, Hoffman, Hollinger, and Ruben**
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2001
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Commission for Women - Sexual Trafficking of Women**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Commission for Women to gather certain
4 data, examine certain statutes, and develop certain recommendations regarding
5 the sexual trafficking of women; and generally relating to the Maryland
6 Commission for Women and sexual trafficking of women.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article 49C - Maryland Commission for Women
9 Section 2 and 5 through 7
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article 49C - Maryland Commission for Women
14 Section 4
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

19 **Article 49C - Maryland Commission for Women**

20 2.

21 The Maryland Commission for Women is established and consists of 24
22 members appointed by the Governor from among persons interested in the
23 improvement of the status of women. The membership shall include both men and
24 women and shall be broadly representative of all fields of interest of women. It shall
25 include persons experienced in public affairs, private industry and volunteer
26 activities and shall represent various age groups and geographical regions of the
27 State. The Commission is a unit of the Department of Human Resources and shall
28 report to the Governor and the legislature through the Secretary of the Department.

1 4.

2 The Commission:

3 (1) Shall stimulate and encourage throughout the State study and
4 review of the status of women in the State and may act as a clearinghouse for all
5 activities to avoid duplication of effort;

6 (2) Shall strengthen home life by directing attention to critical problems
7 confronting women as wives, mothers, homemakers and workers;

8 (3) Shall recommend methods of overcoming discrimination against
9 women in public and private employment, and encourage women to become
10 candidates for public office;

11 (4) Shall promote more effective methods for enabling women to develop
12 their skills, continue their education, and to be retrained;

13 (5) May make surveys and appoint advisory committees in the fields of,
14 but not limited to, education, social services, labor laws and employment policies, law
15 enforcement, health and safety, new and expanded services, legal rights, family
16 relations, human relations, and volunteer services;

17 (6) Shall secure appropriate recognition to women's accomplishments
18 and contributions to this State; [and]

19 (7) Shall work to develop healthy attitudes within the framework of the
20 Commission's responsibilities;

21 (8) SHALL, IN COOPERATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY
22 GENERAL, GATHER DATA ON THE FREQUENCY AND SCOPE OF SEXUAL TRAFFICKING
23 OF WOMEN IN THE STATE;

24 (9) SHALL, IN COOPERATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY
25 GENERAL, EXAMINE STATE CRIMINAL STATUTES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH
26 FEDERAL LAWS REGARDING CRIMINALIZATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN
27 TRAFFICKERS; AND

28 (10) SHALL, IN COOPERATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY
29 GENERAL, DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS
30 OF WOMEN UNDER STATE LAWS.

31 5.

32 (a) The Commission, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the
33 Department of Human Resources, may accept federal funds granted by Congress or
34 executive order for all or any of the purposes of this article as well as private gifts and
35 donations from individuals, private organizations or foundations. However, the
36 acceptance and use of federal funds shall not be considered a commitment of State

1 funds and places no obligation upon the legislature to continue the purposes for which
2 the funds are made available.

3 (b) The Department shall include the Commission in its annual budget.

4 6.

5 The Commission shall have the full cooperation of all executive departments
6 and agencies of the State in the performance of its duties.

7 7.

8 The Commission shall submit an annual report to the Governor and, subject to
9 § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly through the
10 Secretary of Human Resources and shall include recommendations based on its
11 studies.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2001.