

SENATE BILL 422

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2001 Regular Session  
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By: **Senators Lawlah, Conway, Hoffman, Hollinger, and Ruben Ruben, Colburn, Ferguson, Forehand, Green, Haines, Hughes, Jimeno, Mitchell, Mooney, and Sfikas**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2001  
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 20, 2001

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
9 Article 49C - Maryland Commission for Women  
10 Section 2 and 5 through 7  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article 49C - Maryland Commission for Women  
15 Section 4  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

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

2 2.

3 The Maryland Commission for Women is established and consists of 24  
4 members appointed by the Governor from among persons interested in the  
5 improvement of the status of women. The membership shall include both men and  
6 women and shall be broadly representative of all fields of interest of women. It shall  
7 include persons experienced in public affairs, private industry and volunteer  
8 activities and shall represent various age groups and geographical regions of the  
9 State. The Commission is a unit of the Department of Human Resources and shall  
10 report to the Governor and the legislature through the Secretary of the Department.  
11 4.

12 The Commission:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 (9) SHALL, IN COOPERATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY  
35 GENERAL, EXAMINE STATE CRIMINAL STATUTES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH  
36 FEDERAL LAWS REGARDING CRIMINALIZATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN  
37 TRAFFICKERS; AND

1 (10) SHALL, IN COOPERATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY  
2 GENERAL, DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS  
3 OF WOMEN UNDER STATE LAWS.

4 5.

5 (a) The Commission, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the  
6 Department of Human Resources, may accept federal funds granted by Congress or  
7 executive order for all or any of the purposes of this article as well as private gifts and  
8 donations from individuals, private organizations or foundations. However, the  
9 acceptance and use of federal funds shall not be considered a commitment of State  
10 funds and places no obligation upon the legislature to continue the purposes for which  
11 the funds are made available.

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

13 6.

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

16 7.

17 The Commission shall submit an annual report to the Governor and, subject to  
18 § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly through the  
19 Secretary of Human Resources and shall include recommendations based on its  
20 studies.

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