

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

House Bill 1296

(Delegate Hixson, *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Maryland Veterans Commission - Membership

This bill requires that one of the appointed members of the Maryland Veterans Commission be a veteran of the Persian Gulf War and repeals the requirement that a member be appointed from the Veterans of World War I.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Requiring an appointed member of the Maryland Veterans Commission to be a veteran of the Persian Gulf War and repealing the requirement that an individual representing the Veterans of World War I be a member of the Maryland Veterans Commission would not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Maryland Veterans Commission is comprised of 29 members. The Chairman of the Maryland Veterans' Home Commission serves as an ex officio member. Of the 28 members appointed by the Governor, 1 must be appointed from each of the 8 congressional districts in Maryland, 1 must be a veteran of World War II appointed from the State-at-large, 1 must be a representative of a women veterans organization in Maryland, and 1 member must be appointed from each of the 18 organizations: the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc.; the American Legion; the Amvets; the Catholic War Veterans; the Disabled American Veterans; the Fleet Reserve Association; the Jewish War Veterans; the Marine Corps League; the Maryland Retired Officers Association; the Military Order of the Purple Heart; the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association; the Polish Legion of American Veterans; the Veterans of Foreign Wars; the Veterans of World War

I; the Vietnam Veterans of America; the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.; the Black Veterans of All Wars, Inc.; and the Maryland Coalition of the Retired Enlisted Association.

The qualifications for all of the appointed members of the Maryland Veterans Commission specify that the individual must be a resident of the State, and a veteran whose separation from the service was under honorable conditions.

Background: The Maryland Veterans Commission serves Maryland veterans and their dependents through the Veterans Service Program, which is conducted through veterans service centers across the State. The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs advises that no living member of the Veterans of World War I organization currently resides in Maryland. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, there are 42,500 veterans of the Persian Gulf War living in Maryland. Persian Gulf War veterans are not currently represented on the Maryland Veterans Commission.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2002
ncs/hlb Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 1, 2002

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