

BY: Health and Government Operations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 232

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “and Wood” and substitute “Wood, Hurson, Benson, Boutin, Bromwell, Costa, Donoghue, Elliott, Frank, Hubbard, Kullen, McDonough, Morhaim, Murray, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Pendergrass, Rudolph, V. Turner, and Weldon”; and in line 2, strike “Procurement - Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Participation” and substitute “Task Force on Assistance to Disabled Veterans Establishing Small Businesses”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 through 9, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 3 on page 1 through line 15 on page 9, inclusive, and substitute:

“FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Assistance to Disabled Veterans Establishing Small Businesses; specifying the membership and duties of the Task Force; providing for staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Governor to appoint a chair of the Task Force; prohibiting members of the Task Force from receiving compensation for serving on the Task Force; authorizing reimbursement to members of the Task Force for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to submit certain reports to the Governor and to the General Assembly on or before certain dates; requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide certain information on procurement to certain veterans; providing for the termination of a certain section of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on Assistance to Disabled Veterans Establishing Small Businesses.”

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) There is a Task Force on Assistance to Disabled Veterans Establishing Small Businesses.

(Over)

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) two members of the Maryland General Assembly's Veterans Caucus, appointed as follows:

(i) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate; and

(ii) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) one member of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) one member of the House Health and Government Operations Committee, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(4) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary's designee;

(5) the Secretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary's designee; and

(6) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) two representatives of the Maryland Veterans Commission;

(ii) one representative of the Department of Business and Economic

Development;

(iii) one representative of the Minority Business Enterprise Program;

(iv) one representative of the American Legion; and

(v) four representatives of the general public.

(c) The Governor shall appoint the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation for serving on the Task Force; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Task Force shall:

(1) identify the number of disabled State veterans who would benefit from State-awarded contracts for newly established small businesses;

(2) study and evaluate the potential fiscal impact of reserving State-awarded contracts to disabled State veterans establishing small businesses;

(3) identify appropriate percentage goals for the number of State-awarded contracts set aside for disabled State veterans establishing small businesses;

(4) identify existing programs, services, laws, and regulations that best address the issue of assisting disabled veterans establishing small businesses; and

(5) make recommendations regarding the designation of either the Department of Business and Economic Development or the Department of Veterans Affairs as the State agency to implement an initiative to assist disabled veterans establishing small businesses.

(g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly, on or before December 1, 2005.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Veterans Affairs shall publicize on the State and local levels that a disabled veteran may qualify for:

(a) the Small Business Preference Program if the disabled veteran's business satisfies the requirements under Title 14, Subtitle 2 of the State Finance and Procurement Article;

(Over)

(b) certification as a minority business enterprise if the disabled veteran:

(1) is a physically or mentally disabled individual as defined by § 14-301(i)(1)(i)5 of the State Finance and Procurement Article; and

(2) satisfies the minority business enterprise requirements under Title 14, Subtitle 3 of the State Finance and Procurement Article; or

(c) the Small Business Reserve Program if the disabled veteran's business satisfies the requirements under Title 14, Subtitle 5 of the State Finance and Procurement Article."

On page 9, in line 16, strike "2." and substitute "3."; and in line 17, strike "October 1, 2005" and substitute "July 1, 2005. Section 1 shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of December 31, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, Section 1 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.".