
By: **Senators Grosfeld, Astle, Britt, Brochin, Conway, Currie, DeGrange, Della, Dyson, Exum, Forehand, Frosh, Garagiola, Giannetti, Gladden, Green, Hogan, Hollinger, Hughes, Jimeno, Jones, Kasemeyer, Kelley, Klausmeier, Kramer, Lawlah, McFadden, Middleton, Miller, Pinsky, Ruben, Stone, and Teitelbaum**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2005

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Commission for Women**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the membership of the Maryland Commission for
4 Women; providing for the appointment of members of the Commission; repealing
5 provisions that require the membership of the Commission to include certain
6 persons; requiring that certain members of the Commission shall be appointed
7 from among applicants who have been nominated and recommended for
8 appointment by certain organizations; requiring that certain members of the
9 Commission shall be appointed from applicants applying on their own behalf;
10 providing for the terms of the members of the Commission; repealing a provision
11 requiring the Governor to designate from the members a chairman and vice
12 chairman; providing that commissioners are not entitled to receive certain
13 compensation; providing that a commissioner who fails to attend a certain
14 number of meetings during a certain period is considered to have resigned;
15 requiring the members of the Commission to elect a chair and vice chair;
16 repealing a provision stating that the chair of the Commission is the chief
17 executive officer of the Commission; requiring the Secretary of Human
18 Resources to appoint an executive director; providing that the executive director
19 is a merit employee of the Department of Human Resources and is entitled to a
20 certain salary; requiring the Commission to advise certain branches of
21 government on issues concerning women, including offering certain testimony
22 before certain bodies; defining certain terms; making stylistic changes;
23 providing for the expiration of the terms of the members serving on the
24 Commission on the effective date of this Act; authorizing certain commissioners
25 whose terms end on a certain date to reapply as commissioner; and generally
26 relating to the Maryland Commission for Women.

27 BY repealing
28 Article 49C - Maryland Commission for Women
29 Section 1, 2, and 3
30 Annotated Code of Maryland

1 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

2 BY adding to

3 Article 49C - Maryland Commission for Women

4 Section 1, 2, 3, and 3A

5 Annotated Code of Maryland

6 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article 49C - Maryland Commission for Women

9 Section 4

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

13 Article 49C - Maryland Commission for Women

14 Section 5, 6, 7, and 8

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2004 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 [1.

21 This article shall be known as the "Maryland Commission for Women Act".]

22 1.

23 IN THIS ARTICLE:

24 (1) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR WOMEN;

25 (2) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES;

26 AND

27 (3) "SECRETARY" MEANS THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

28 [2.

29 The Maryland Commission for Women is established and consists of 24
30 members appointed by the Governor from among persons interested in the
31 improvement of the status of women. The membership shall include both men and
32 women and shall be broadly representative of all fields of interest of women. It shall
33 include persons experienced in public affairs, private industry and volunteer
34 activities and shall represent various age groups and geographical regions of the

1 State. The Commission is a unit of the Department of Human Resources and shall
2 report to the Governor and the legislature through the Secretary of the Department.]

3 2.

4 (A) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF:

5 (1) NINE INDIVIDUALS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, WITH THE
6 ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE;

7 (2) EIGHT INDIVIDUALS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
8 OF MARYLAND; AND

9 (3) EIGHT INDIVIDUALS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
10 DELEGATES.

11 (B) (1) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE
12 APPOINTED FROM AMONG APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN NOMINATED AND
13 RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT BY ORGANIZATIONS LOCATED IN THE STATE
14 WHOSE INTERESTS RELATE TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN:

15 (I) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

16 (II) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
17 SENATE OF MARYLAND; AND

18 (III) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
19 OF DELEGATES.

20 (2) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE
21 APPOINTED FROM APPLICANTS APPLYING ON THEIR OWN BEHALF:

22 (I) FIVE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

23 (II) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
24 SENATE OF MARYLAND; AND

25 (III) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
26 OF DELEGATES.

27 (C) (1) THE TERM OF A COMMISSIONER IS 4 YEARS.

28 (2) AT THE END OF A TERM, THE COMMISSIONER CONTINUES TO SERVE
29 UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

30 (3) A COMMISSIONER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN
31 SERVES ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED
32 AND QUALIFIES.

33 (4) A COMMISSIONER MAY NOT SERVE MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE
34 TERMS.

1 (D) COMMISSIONERS ARE NOT ENTITLED TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR
2 THEIR SERVICES.

3 (E) A COMMISSIONER WHO FAILS TO ATTEND AT LEAST 50% OF THE
4 REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS DURING ANY 12-MONTH PERIOD SHALL BE
5 CONSIDERED TO HAVE RESIGNED.

6 (F) THE COMMISSION IS A UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
7 AND SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH
8 THE SECRETARY.

9 [3.

10 The Governor shall appoint the members of the Commission for terms of four (4)
11 years. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments for
12 the balance of the unexpired term. Any member of the Commission may be
13 reappointed to one additional term as a member of the Commission. The members
14 shall serve without compensation. The Governor shall designate a Chairman and
15 vice-chairman. The Chairman shall be the chief executive officer of the Commission.
16 The Commission may appoint such officers as it deems necessary.]

17 3.

18 (A) THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT A CHAIR AND A VICE CHAIR FROM AMONG
19 ITS MEMBERS.

20 (B) THE COMMISSION MAY APPOINT ANY OFFICERS THAT IT CONSIDERS
21 NECESSARY.

22 3A.

23 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE
24 COMMISSION.

25 (B) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL BE A MERIT EMPLOYEE OF THE
26 DEPARTMENT.

27 (C) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS ENTITLED TO THE SALARY PROVIDED IN
28 THE STATE BUDGET.

29 4.

30 The Commission:

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (7) Shall work to develop healthy attitudes within the framework of the
13 Commission's responsibilities; AND

14 (8) SHALL INFORM THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF
15 GOVERNMENT ON ISSUES CONCERNING WOMEN, INCLUDING OFFERING TESTIMONY
16 ON THESE ISSUES BEFORE LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES.

17 5.

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

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

26 6.

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

29 7.

30 The Commission shall submit an annual report to the Governor and, subject to
31 § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly through the
32 Secretary of Human Resources and shall include recommendations based on its
33 studies.

34 8.

35 The Commission shall have no authority to promulgate rules and regulations.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the term of office of each
2 member of the Maryland Commission for Women who is serving on the Commission
3 on the effective date of this Act shall expire on October 31, 2005. Each commissioner
4 whose term ends on October 31, 2005, may reapply as commissioner of the Maryland
5 Commission for Women.

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the members
7 of the Maryland Commission for Women whose term of office begins on November 1,
8 2005, shall expire as follows:

9 (1) in 2007, 3 members appointed by the Governor, 2 members appointed
10 by the President of the Senate, and 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House
11 of Delegates;

12 (2) in 2008, 2 members appointed by the Governor, 2 members appointed
13 by the President of the Senate, and 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House
14 of Delegates;

15 (3) in 2009, 2 members appointed by the Governor, 2 members appointed
16 by the President of the Senate, and 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House
17 of Delegates; and

18 (4) in 2010, 2 members appointed by the Governor, 2 members appointed
19 by the President of the Senate, and 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House
20 of Delegates.

21 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2005.