
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**

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

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CHAPTER _____

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

1 whose terms end on a certain date to reapply as commissioner; requiring, to the
2 extent practicable, that the appointments to the Commission ensure geographic
3 diversity; and generally relating to the Maryland Commission for Women.

4 BY repealing

5 Article 49C - Maryland Commission for Women
6 Section 1, 2, and 3
7 Annotated Code of Maryland
8 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

9 BY adding to

10 Article 49C - Maryland Commission for Women
11 Section 1, 2, 3, and 3A
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

15 Article 49C - Maryland Commission for Women
16 Section 4
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

20 Article 49C - Maryland Commission for Women
21 Section 5, 6, 7, and 8
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

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

27 [1.

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

29 1.

30 IN THIS ARTICLE:

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

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

33 AND

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

1 [2.

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

10 2.

11 (A) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF:

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

14 (2) EIGHT INDIVIDUALS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
15 OF MARYLAND; AND

16 (3) EIGHT INDIVIDUALS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
17 DELEGATES.

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

22 (I) FOUR 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 (2) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE
28 APPOINTED FROM APPLICANTS APPLYING ON THEIR OWN BEHALF:

29 (I) FIVE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

30 (II) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
31 SENATE OF MARYLAND; AND

32 (III) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
33 OF DELEGATES.

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

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

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

6 (4) A COMMISSIONER MAY NOT SERVE MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE
7 TERMS.

8 (D) COMMISSIONERS ARE NOT ENTITLED TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR
9 THEIR SERVICES.

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

13 (F) THE COMMISSION IS A UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
14 AND SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH
15 THE SECRETARY.

16 [3.

17 The Governor shall appoint the members of the Commission for terms of four (4)
18 years. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments for
19 the balance of the unexpired term. Any member of the Commission may be
20 reappointed to one additional term as a member of the Commission. The members
21 shall serve without compensation. The Governor shall designate a Chairman and
22 vice-chairman. The Chairman shall be the chief executive officer of the Commission.
23 The Commission may appoint such officers as it deems necessary.]

24 3.

25 (A) THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT A CHAIR AND A VICE CHAIR FROM AMONG
26 ITS MEMBERS.

27 (B) THE COMMISSION MAY APPOINT ANY OFFICERS THAT IT CONSIDERS
28 NECESSARY.

29 3A.

30 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE
31 COMMISSION.

32 (B) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL BE A MERIT EMPLOYEE OF THE
33 DEPARTMENT.

34 (C) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS ENTITLED TO THE SALARY PROVIDED IN
35 THE STATE BUDGET.

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; AND

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

24 5.

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

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

33 6.

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

1 7.

2 The Commission shall submit an annual report to the Governor and, subject to
3 § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly through the
4 Secretary of Human Resources and shall include recommendations based on its
5 studies.

6 8.

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

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

13 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the members
14 of the Maryland Commission for Women whose term of office begins on November 1,
15 2005, shall expire as follows:

16 (1) in 2007, 3 members appointed by the Governor, 2 members appointed
17 by the President of the Senate, and 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House
18 of Delegates;

19 (2) in 2008, 2 members appointed by the Governor, 2 members appointed
20 by the President of the Senate, and 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House
21 of Delegates;

22 (3) in 2009, 2 members appointed by the Governor, 2 members appointed
23 by the President of the Senate, and 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House
24 of Delegates; and

25 (4) in 2010, 2 members appointed by the Governor, 2 members appointed
26 by the President of the Senate, and 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House
27 of Delegates.

28 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to the extent
29 practicable, in making appointments under this Act, the Governor, the President of
30 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House shall ensure geographic diversity among
31 the membership of the Maryland Commission for Women.

32 SECTION 4. ~~5.~~ AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
33 effect October 1, 2005.

