
By: **Delegates Murray, Branch, Carter, Franchot, Haynes, Hixson, Hubbard,
King, Kirk, Madaleno, Marriott, Oaks, and Stern**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2006

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Commission for Men**

3 FOR the purpose of creating the Maryland Commission for Men; providing for the
4 appointment of members of the Commission; requiring that certain members of
5 the Commission shall be appointed from among applicants who have been
6 nominated and recommended for appointment by certain organizations;
7 requiring that certain members of the Commission shall be appointed from
8 applicants applying on their own behalf; providing for the terms of the members
9 of the Commission; providing for reimbursement for certain expenses of
10 members; providing that a commissioner who fails to attend a certain number of
11 meetings during a certain time period is considered to have resigned; providing
12 that the Commission is a unit of the Department of Human Resources; requiring
13 the members of the Commission to elect a chair and vice chair; requiring the
14 Secretary of Human Resources to appoint an executive director; providing that
15 the executive director is a merit employee of the Department and is entitled to a
16 certain salary; providing for the duties of the Commission; authorizing the
17 Commission to accept certain funds under certain circumstances; requiring the
18 Commission to report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly;
19 defining certain terms; providing for staggered terms for certain members of the
20 Commission; requiring, to the extent practicable, that the appointments to the
21 Commission ensure geographic diversity; requiring the appointments to the
22 Commission to be made without regard to race, color, disability, gender, religion,
23 age, or national origin; and generally relating to the Maryland Commission for
24 Men.

25 BY adding

26 New Article 49E - Maryland Commission for Men
27 Section 1 through 8
28 Annotated Code of Maryland
29 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

1 Preamble

2 WHEREAS, There is a silent health crisis affecting the health and well-being of
3 Maryland men; and

4 WHEREAS, This health crisis is of particular concern to men, but is also a
5 concern for women, as the crisis affects fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers; and

6 WHEREAS, Men's health is likewise a concern for employers, who lose
7 productive employees as well as pay the costs of medical care, and for State
8 government and society, which absorb the enormous costs of premature death and
9 disability, including the costs of caring for dependents left without income; and

10 WHEREAS, The life expectancy for a child born in Maryland in 2001 was 73.9
11 years for males versus 79.1 years for females; and

12 WHEREAS, The 2001 Maryland death rate of 819.9 per 100,000 population for
13 men exceeded the death rate of 802.4 per 100,000 population for women; and

14 WHEREAS, In Maryland, only 22% of the deaths to women in 2001 occurred
15 before age 65, men younger than 65 accounted for 36% of all deaths to men in that
16 year; and

17 WHEREAS, Men comprised 60% of new HIV cases in 2001 in Maryland and 67%
18 of new AIDS cases in the same year; and

19 WHEREAS, Men are reported to be 25% less likely than women to visit a doctor;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Employment-based health insurance, which has traditionally
22 financed much of the health care received by men, is on the decline, and recent
23 Medicaid and other publicly-financed health care expansions have focused primarily
24 on children and women; and

25 WHEREAS, Educating men, their families, and health care providers about the
26 importance of early detection of men's health problems can result in reducing rates of
27 mortality for male-specific diseases, as well as improve the health of Maryland men
28 and the State's overall economic well-being; and

29 WHEREAS, Regular exercise, good nutrition, healthy behaviors, regular
30 medical checkups, preventive health screenings, and diagnostic tests that detect
31 disease early have been proven to save lives; and

32 WHEREAS, A Commission for Men is needed to promote men's health in
33 Maryland; now, therefore,

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

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) A COMMISSIONER:

9 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE
10 COMMISSION; BUT

11 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
12 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

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

16 (F) THE COMMISSION IS A UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
17 AND SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH
18 THE SECRETARY.

19 3.

20 (A) THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT A CHAIR AND A VICE CHAIR FROM AMONG
21 ITS MEMBERS.

22 (B) THE COMMISSION MAY APPOINT ANY OFFICERS THAT IT CONSIDERS
23 NECESSARY.

24 3A.

25 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE
26 COMMISSION.

27 (B) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL BE A MERIT EMPLOYEE OF THE
28 DEPARTMENT.

29 (C) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS ENTITLED TO THE SALARY PROVIDED IN
30 THE STATE BUDGET.

31 4.

32 THE COMMISSION:

33 (1) SHALL DEVELOP STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS, INCLUDING
34 COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, DESIGNED TO:

1 (I) RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF MEN'S ISSUES, INCLUDING
2 HEALTH PROBLEMS THAT DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECT MEN AND THE
3 IMPORTANCE OF PATERNAL INFLUENCE IN THE FAMILY;

4 (II) ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF MEN IN HEALTHY
5 BEHAVIORS, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT; AND

6 (III) EDUCATE MARYLAND MEN ON THE BENEFITS OF REGULAR
7 PHYSICIAN CHECKUPS, EARLY DETECTION AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH SCREENING
8 TESTS, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PRACTICES;

9 (2) SHALL REVIEW THE HEALTH STATUS OF MEN IN THE STATE AND
10 FOCUS ON HEALTH OUTCOMES OF MEN FOR SPECIFIC DISEASES, INCLUDING
11 PROSTATE AND TESTICULAR CANCER, ORAL CANCER, CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE,
12 DEPRESSION, AND DIABETES;

13 (3) SHALL ORGANIZE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS TO IDENTIFY ISSUES
14 AFFECTING MEN'S HEALTH AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT;

15 (4) SHALL MONITOR STATE AND FEDERAL POLICY AND LEGISLATION
16 THAT MAY AFFECT THE AREAS OF MEN'S HEALTH AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT; AND

17 (5) SHALL RECOMMEND ASSISTANCE, SERVICES, AND POLICY CHANGES
18 THAT WILL FURTHER THE GOALS OF THE COMMISSION.

19 5.

20 (A) (1) THE COMMISSION, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY,
21 MAY ACCEPT:

22 (I) FEDERAL FUNDS GRANTED BY CONGRESS OR EXECUTIVE
23 ORDER FOR ALL OR ANY OF THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE; AND

24 (II) PRIVATE GIFTS AND DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS, PRIVATE
25 ORGANIZATIONS, OR FOUNDATIONS.

26 (2) THE ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS MAY NOT BE
27 CONSIDERED A COMMITMENT OF STATE FUNDS AND PLACES NO OBLIGATION ON
28 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONTINUE THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE FUNDS ARE
29 AVAILABLE.

30 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE THE COMMISSION IN ITS ANNUAL
31 BUDGET.

32 6.

33 THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE THE FULL COOPERATION OF ALL EXECUTIVE
34 DEPARTMENTS 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,
3 SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY THROUGH THE SECRETARY AND SHALL INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS
5 BASED ON ITS STUDIES.

6 8.

7 THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO ADOPT RULES AND
8 REGULATIONS.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the members
10 of the Maryland Commission for Men whose term of office begins on October 1, 2006,
11 shall expire as follows:

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

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

18 (3) in 2010, one member appointed by the Governor, one member
19 appointed by the President of the Senate, and two members appointed by the Speaker
20 of the House of Delegates.

21 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, in making appointments
22 under this Act, the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
23 House of Delegates shall ensure:

24 (1) to the extent practicable, geographic diversity among the
25 membership of the Maryland Commission for Men; and

26 (2) that appointments are made without regard to the race, color,
27 disability, gender, religion, age, or national origin of the appointees.

28 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2006.