

**ENROLLED BILL**

-- Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/Health and Government Operations --

Introduced by **Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Committee (By Request - Departmental - Veterans Affairs)**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

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Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this  
\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs - Revisions**

3 FOR the purpose of defining the operational and administrative authority of the  
4 Department of Veterans Affairs and of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;  
5 defining the function of certain commissions within the Department; altering  
6 the composition and length of terms of Commission members; repealing obsolete  
7 provisions; altering certain provisions relating to interment in veterans'  
8 cemeteries; altering certain provisions for admission to a veterans' home; and  
9 generally relating to the operation and function of the Department of Veterans  
10 Affairs.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article - State Government  
13 Section 9-901, 9-904, 9-905, 9-907, 9-908, 9-909, 9-911, 9-912, 9-913, 9-914,  
14 9-915, 9-917, 9-918, 9-919, 9-920, 9-921, 9-922, 9-923, 9-925, and  
15 9-927 through 9-937, inclusive, and the various parts

1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

3 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
4 Article - State Government  
5 Section 9-902  
6 Annotated Code of Maryland  
7 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

8 BY adding to  
9 Article - State Government  
10 Section 9-903  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

13 BY repealing  
14 Article - State Government  
15 Section 9-910, 9-924, and 9-926  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

20 **Article - State Government**

21 Subtitle 9. Department of Veterans Affairs.

22 Part I. Established.

23 9-901.

24 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

25 (b) "Department" means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

26 (c) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

27 (d) Except as otherwise provided in §§ [9-913 and 9-914] 9-906 AND 9-907 of  
28 this subtitle, "veteran" means an individual who served on active duty in the armed  
29 forces of the United States, other than for training, and was discharged or released  
30 under conditions other than dishonorable.

31 9-902.

32 (a) There is a Department of Veterans Affairs, established as a principal  
33 department of the State government.

1 (b) The head of the Department is the Secretary of Veterans Affairs who shall  
2 be:

3 (1) a veteran who has an honorable discharge from active service with a  
4 uniformed service of the United States; and

5 (2) appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

6 (c) (1) The Secretary serves at the pleasure of the Governor and is  
7 responsible directly to the Governor. The Secretary shall advise the Governor on all  
8 matters assigned to the Department and is responsible for carrying out the  
9 Governor's policies on these matters.

10 (2) The Secretary is responsible for the operation of the Department and  
11 shall establish guidelines and procedures to promote the orderly and efficient  
12 operation of the Department.

13 (3) Subject to the provisions of this subtitle, the Secretary may establish,  
14 reorganize, or consolidate areas of responsibility in the Department as necessary to  
15 fulfill the duties assigned by the Secretary.

16 (4) The Secretary shall adopt regulations necessary to carry out the  
17 provisions of this subtitle.

18 (d) The Secretary is entitled to the salary provided in the State budget.

19 9-903.

20 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS THE LEGAL ADVISER TO THE DEPARTMENT.

21 [9-911.] 9-904.

22 (a) [The Commission shall have a service center in Baltimore City, which  
23 shall be the principal office of the Commission.]

24 [(b)] (1) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT may:

25 (i) [have any additional] ESTABLISH service centers that the  
26 [Commission] DEPARTMENT considers necessary or advisable to facilitate and  
27 expedite the servicing of claims of veterans and dependents; and

28 (ii) close any [additional] service center that the [Commission]  
29 DEPARTMENT no longer considers necessary.

30 (2) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall try to locate each  
31 [additional] service center CENTRALLY IN THE AREA TO BE SERVED SO THAT THE  
32 GREATEST NUMBER OF VETERANS:

33 [(i) centrally in the area to be served so that the greatest number of  
34 veterans:]

1 [1.] (I) have access with the least possible delay, travel, and  
2 inconvenience; and

3 [2.] (II) receive, as far as possible, personal attention[]; and  
4 (ii) in space that is provided rent-free].

5 [(c) The Commission and the Department shall coordinate, as much as  
6 possible, with other appropriate units to:

7 (1) avoid an overlap of effort; and

8 (2) provide, if possible, at 1 service center or in 1 general local area,  
9 complete information about the problems that relate to veterans.]

10 [(d)] (B) [The Director shall supervise the service centers.] THERE SHALL BE  
11 A DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICE CENTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUPERVISION  
12 OF VETERANS SERVICE CENTERS, WHOSE DUTIES SHALL INCLUDE MAINTAINING  
13 CONTACT WITH THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTAL UNIT REGARDING THE STATUS  
14 OF EACH CLAIM OF A VETERAN OR ELIGIBLE DEPENDENT OF A VETERAN.

15 [9-912.] 9-905.

16 [(a) (1)] The [Commission and the] Department shall:

17 (1) help veterans and their dependents to receive promptly and regularly  
18 all of the benefits to which veterans or dependents are entitled under federal law[.];  
19 AND

20 (2) [Among other things, the Commission and the Department shall]  
21 help veterans and their dependents in:

22 (i) preparing, in proper form, claims for benefits;

23 (ii) presenting the claims to the appropriate governmental unit;

24 (iii) trying to prevent and to relieve congestion in the processing of  
25 the claims; and

26 (iv) obtaining and expediting action on the claims.

27 [(b) The Director shall keep in contact with the appropriate governmental unit  
28 as to the status of each claim of a veteran or dependent of a veteran.]

29 [9-913.] 9-906.

30 (a) (1) In this section, "State veterans' cemetery" means a cemetery that the  
31 [Commission] DEPARTMENT establishes under this section.

32 (2) In this section and in § [9-914] 9-907 of this subtitle, "veteran"  
33 means an individual who:

1 (i) served OTHER THAN DISHONORABLY on active duty in the  
2 armed forces of the United States; or

3 (ii) served OTHER THAN DISHONORABLY as a member of the State  
4 militia ordered into active service of the United States by order of the President and  
5 was killed in the line of duty.

6 (b) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT may establish [1] ONE or more  
7 cemeteries in the State for the burial of veterans and their [immediate families]  
8 ELIGIBLE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENTS AS AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY.

9 (c) [(1)] The [Commission] DEPARTMENT may accept land, on behalf of the  
10 State or a political subdivision of the State, or otherwise acquire land for a State  
11 veterans' cemetery, if the [Commission] DEPARTMENT has the approval of:

12 [(i)] (1) the governing body of the county where the State veterans'  
13 cemetery is to be located;

14 [(ii)] (2) the delegation in the General Assembly for the county  
15 where the State veterans' cemetery is to be located; and

16 [(iii)] (3) the Board of Public Works.

17 [(2)] In selecting a location for a proposed State veterans' cemetery, the  
18 Commission shall give priority to land that is near a national memorial battle site.]

19 (d) (1) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall maintain and supervise each  
20 State veterans' cemetery.

21 (2) The Washington Cemetery Board of Trustees shall be under the  
22 supervision of the [Commission] DEPARTMENT.

23 (e) [(1)] Subject to the limitations in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the]  
24 THE [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall provide a plot in a State veterans' cemetery,  
25 without charge, to [an applicant] A VETERAN who meets the requirements of this  
26 section.

27 [(2)] In the order in which the Commission receives the applications for  
28 plots, the Commission shall allot a plot in the State veterans' cemetery that is closest  
29 to the residence of the veteran and has an available plot.]

30 (f) [(1)] To qualify for a plot in a State veterans' cemetery[.];

31 (1) the applicant must be a veteran WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS  
32 FOR BURIAL AT A NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETERY or [a member of the immediate  
33 family] AN ELIGIBLE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT of a veteran who meets the  
34 requirements of this subsection[.]; AND

35 [(2)] The veteran must have an honorable discharge from the armed  
36 forces.]

1            [(3)] (2)        [The] IF A VETERAN, THE veteran must ALSO have been a  
2 resident of the State:

3                            (i)        when the veteran entered the armed forces;

4                            (ii)       when the veteran died; or

5                            (iii)      for [20] 2 years, unless, for a reason that the [Commission]  
6 DEPARTMENT finds compelling, the [Commission] DEPARTMENT waives the time  
7 period.

8        (g)        To obtain a plot in a State veterans' cemetery, an applicant shall submit to  
9 the [Commission] DEPARTMENT an application on the form that the [Commission]  
10 DEPARTMENT provides.

11        (h)        (1)        In a plot that is allotted to a veteran, the [Commission]  
12 DEPARTMENT shall bury:

13                            (i)        the veteran; and

14                            (ii)      any member of the immediate family WHO IS AN ELIGIBLE  
15 SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT of the veteran if the family member can be buried in a space  
16 above or below the veteran OR IN THE NEXT AVAILABLE PLOT.

17                            (2)        (i) With each plot, the [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall provide [1]  
18 ONE grave liner [not to exceed \$100 in cost, subject to an annual increase of not more  
19 than 5 percent to allow for inflation].

20                            (ii)      For an eligible veteran, the [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall  
21 pay for the grave liner.

22                            (iii)     For an eligible [family member] SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT, the  
23 grave liner shall be paid for by the family or estate.

24        (i)        (1)        The [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall bury the veteran without  
25 charge.

26                            (2)        For burial of a member of the immediate family WHO IS AN ELIGIBLE  
27 SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT, the [Commission] DEPARTMENT may set a fee that does  
28 not exceed the cost of burial.

29 [9-914.] 9-907.

30        The [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall keep a registry of the graves of veterans  
31 AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS who are buried in the State VETERANS  
32 CEMETERIES.

33 [9-915.] 9-908.

34        (a)        In this section, "veterans' memorials and monuments" means:

1 (1) the Maryland Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Associated Land as  
2 established pursuant to Joint Resolution No. 22 of 1983;

3 (2) the Maryland Korean War Memorial and Associated Land as  
4 established pursuant to Joint Resolution No. 3 of 1985; and

5 (3) the Maryland World War II Memorial and Associated Land.

6 (b) There is a Veterans' Memorials and Monuments Program administered by  
7 the [Maryland Veterans Commission] DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

8 (c) The purpose of the Program is to provide for the operation, maintenance,  
9 security, and preservation of veterans' memorials and monuments.

10 (d) In furtherance of these purposes, the [Commission] DEPARTMENT may, as  
11 provided for in the budget:

12 (1) lease land on behalf of the State or a political subdivision of the State;  
13 or

14 (2) acquire land that has been improved by construction of a memorial or  
15 monument.

16 (e) The Secretary may adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this  
17 section.

18 (f) (1) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT shall, as provided for in the  
19 budget, provide for the management of the veterans' memorials and monuments as  
20 provided in this section.

21 (2) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT may delegate any of its powers and  
22 duties under this section to a special commission or board created by the  
23 [Commission] DEPARTMENT and approved by the Governor.

24 (g) The [Commission] DEPARTMENT may acquire, hold, use, and improve  
25 property for the purposes specified in subsection (c) of this section.

26 (h) Subject to Title 7 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, the  
27 [Commission] DEPARTMENT may:

28 (1) accept gifts or grants;

29 (2) unless otherwise provided, spend the principal and income of a gift or  
30 grant; and

31 (3) invest all or part of the principal income in general obligations of the  
32 State or any other security.

1 [9-917.] 9-909.

2 [In this Part III of this subtitle,] "Home" means the home OR HOMES for  
3 veterans that the [Maryland Veterans' Home Commission] DEPARTMENT supervises.  
4 [9-927.] 9-910.

5 (a) The [Veterans' Home Commission] DEPARTMENT shall:

6 (1) maintain and supervise generally the Home in accordance with this  
7 [Part III of this] subtitle; and

8 (2) adopt any regulation that is needed for management of the Home,  
9 including regulations for admission, maintenance, and discharge of its residents.

10 (b) (1) The [Veterans' Home Commission] DEPARTMENT may appoint a  
11 [Commandant] DIRECTOR for the Home and employ any other staff that is needed to  
12 manage the Home properly.

13 (2) In appointing or employing staff, the [Veterans' Home Commission]  
14 DEPARTMENT shall give preference to a veteran who has an honorable discharge from  
15 the armed forces.

16 [(3) The Veterans' Home Commission shall set the salary for each official  
17 of the Home in an amount that does not exceed the salary paid by similar institutions  
18 for the service.]

19 [(4)] (3) The [Commandant] DIRECTOR shall:

20 (i) serve at the pleasure of the [Veterans' Home Commission]  
21 SECRETARY; and

22 (ii) perform any duty that the [Veterans' Home Commission]  
23 DEPARTMENT requires.

24 [(5) If the Veterans' Home Commission delegates to the Commandant  
25 responsibility for employing staff, the Commission shall hold the Commandant  
26 strictly accountable for the actions of each individual whom the Commandant  
27 employs.]

28 [9-928.] 9-911.

29 (a) In accordance with the regulations of the [Veterans' Home Commission]  
30 DEPARTMENT and applicable law, the Home shall be open [to a veteran who]:

31 (1) TO A VETERAN WHO:

32 [(1)] (I) has an honorable discharge from the armed forces; and

33 [(2)] (II) is a resident of the State AS DEFINED IN REGULATIONS  
34 ADOPTED BY THE SECRETARY; OR



1 (2) TO A SPOUSE OF AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN.

2 (b) (1) The [Veterans' Home Commission] DEPARTMENT may charge an  
3 individual a reasonable fee for residence in the Home.

4 (2) The [Veterans' Home Commission] DEPARTMENT shall set the fee in  
5 accordance with the ability of an individual to pay. However, the fee may not exceed  
6 the cost of maintaining the resident in the Home and shall allow the resident enough  
7 money for necessary and incidental expenses.

8 (c) A resident may be discharged in accordance with the regulations of the  
9 [Veterans' Home Commission] DEPARTMENT and applicable law.

10 [9-929.] 9-912.

11 (a) To carry out the [purposes] RESPONSIBILITIES and goals of the [Veterans'  
12 Home Commission] DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THE HOME, the [Commission]  
13 DEPARTMENT may acquire, hold, use, improve, and convey property.

14 (b) In addition to any other power under this section AND SUBJECT TO TITLE  
15 7 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, to carry out the purposes or  
16 goals of the [Veterans' Home Commission] DEPARTMENT, the [Commission] HOME:

17 (1) may accept a gift or grant; and

18 (2) unless the terms of a gift or grant require otherwise, [on an  
19 affirmative vote of at least 7 members of the Commission] AND SUBJECT TO THE  
20 APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY, may:

21 (i) spend the principal and income of the gift or grant; or

22 (ii) invest all or part of the principal and income in:

23 1. general obligations of the State; or

24 2. any other security.

25 (c) (1) In addition to any other power under this section, the [Veterans'  
26 Home Commission] DEPARTMENT may lease any part of [its] THE HOME property  
27 for use as a concession or other commercial purpose that is consistent with the  
28 purposes of the [Commission] DEPARTMENT. However, the [Commission]  
29 DEPARTMENT may not lease its property merely for investment purposes.

30 (2) Notwithstanding any other law, unless the lease expressly provides  
31 for redemption by the tenant, the lease is not subject to redemption.

1 9-913. RESERVED.

2 9-914. RESERVED.

3 Part II. Maryland Veterans Commission.

4 [9-904.] 9-915.

5 [(a)] In this Part II of this subtitle, [the following words have the meanings  
6 indicated.]

7 [(b)] "Commission" means the Maryland Veterans Commission.

8 [(c)] "Director" means the Director of the Maryland Veterans Commission.]

9 [9-905.] 9-916.

10 There is a Maryland Veterans Commission in the Department THAT SHALL  
11 ADVISE THE SECRETARY OF ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO VETERANS ISSUES.

12 [9-907.] 9-917.

13 (a) (1) The Commission consists of [the following 30] 27 members[:

14 (i) as an ex officio member, the Chairman of the Maryland  
15 Veterans' Home Commission; and

16 (ii) 29 members] appointed by the Governor.

17 (2) Of the [29 appointed] members:

18 (i) 1 shall be appointed from each of the 8 congressional districts in  
19 the State;

20 (ii) 1 shall be a veteran [of World War II,] appointed from the State  
21 at large;

22 (iii) 1 shall be a representative of a women veterans organization in  
23 the State;

24 (IV) 1 SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF A RETIRED ENLISTED  
25 ORGANIZATION; AND

26 [(iv)] (V) 1 shall be appointed from a list of individuals submitted to  
27 the Governor by each of the following organizations:

28 1. the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc.;

29 2. the American Legion;

30 3. the Amvets;

- 1                                   4.       the Catholic War Veterans;
- 2                                   5.       the Disabled American Veterans;
- 3                                   6.       the Fleet Reserve Association;
- 4                                   7.       the Jewish War Veterans;
- 5                                   8.       the Marine Corps League;
- 6                                   9.       the Maryland [Retired Officers Association] MILITARY  
7 OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA;
- 8                                   10.      the Military Order of the Purple Heart;
- 9                                   11.      the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association;
- 10                                  12.      the Polish Legion of American Veterans;
- 11                                  13.      the Veterans of Foreign Wars;
- 12                                  14.      the Vietnam Veterans of America;
- 13                                  15.      the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.; AND
- 14                                  16.      the Black Veterans of All Wars, Inc.[];
- 15                                  17.      the Maryland Coalition of the Retired Enlisted  
16 Association; and
- 17                                  18.      the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge; and
- 18                                  (v)      I shall be a veteran of the Persian Gulf War appointed from the  
19 State at large.]

20       (b)       Each member must be a resident of the State and a veteran [whose final  
21 separation from active service with a uniformed service of the United States was  
22 under honorable conditions].

23       (c)       (1)       The term of an appointed member is [7] 5 years.

24                   (2)       The terms of the appointed members are staggered as required by the  
25 terms provided for members of the Commission on October 1, 1984.

26                   (3)       At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is  
27 appointed and qualifies.

28                   (4)       A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for  
29 the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

1 (5) WHEN AN ORGANIZATION IS NO LONGER A PART OF THE  
2 COMMISSION, THE APPOINTMENT SHALL TERMINATE AT THE END OF THE CURRENT  
3 MEMBER'S TERM.

4 (D) A NEW ORGANIZATION MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR REPRESENTATION ON  
5 THE COMMISSION, BY APPOINTMENT OF THE GOVERNOR, UNLESS IT IS  
6 CONGRESSIONALLY CHARTERED.

7 [9-908.] 9-918.

8 (A) From among the members of the Commission, the Governor shall appoint  
9 a chairman.

10 (B) A VICE CHAIRMAN SHALL BE ELECTED BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE OF  
11 THE COMMISSION.

12 [9-909.] 9-919.

13 (a) The Commission shall determine the times and places of its meetings.

14 (b) A member of the Commission:

15 (1) may not receive compensation; but

16 (2) if the Commission approves, is entitled to reimbursement for  
17 expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State  
18 budget.

19 (c) The Department shall provide staff support to the Commission in  
20 accordance with the State budget.

21 [9-910.]

22 (a) The Secretary, with the Commission's approval, shall appoint a Director  
23 for the Commission.

24 (b) The Director is entitled to the salary provided in the State budget.

25 (c) In addition to any duties set forth elsewhere, the Director shall:

26 (1) survey the State to ensure that veterans and their dependents are  
27 not neglected; and

28 (2) perform any other duty that the Commission directs.]

1 9-920. RESERVED.

2 9-921. RESERVED.

3 Part III. Maryland Veterans' Home Commission.

4 [9-920.] 9-922.

5 There is a Maryland Veterans' Home Commission in the Department.

6 [9-918.] 9-923.

7 (a) The [purposes] PURPOSE of the Maryland Veterans' Home Commission IS  
8 TO ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT OF ISSUES RELATED TO STATE VETERANS HOMES [are  
9 to operate and to manage in the State a home for veterans].

10 (b) The General Assembly declares the [purposes] PURPOSE of the Maryland  
11 Veterans' Home Commission to be of general benefit to the veterans of the State.

12 [9-919.] 9-924.

13 This Part III of this subtitle does not limit any power or activity of:

- 14 (1) a unit of the State government;
- 15 (2) a political subdivision of the State; or
- 16 (3) any person who is interested in veterans in the State.

17 [9-921.] 9-925.

18 (a) The Veterans' Home Commission consists of the following [15] 14  
19 members:

20 (1) 11 individuals appointed by the Governor with the advice and  
21 consent of the Senate; and

22 (2) as ex officio members:

23 (i) the Governor;

24 (ii) the President of the Senate; AND

25 (iii) the Speaker of the House of Delegates[; and

26 (iv) the Chairman of the Maryland Veterans Commission].

27 (b) (1) The term of an appointed member is [4] 5 years.

28 (2) The terms of the appointed members are staggered as required by the  
29 terms provided for members of the Veterans' Home Commission on October 1, 1984.

1 (3) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is  
2 appointed and qualifies.

3 (4) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for  
4 the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

5 (c) As far as is practicable and is consistent with the purposes and goals of the  
6 Veterans' Home Commission, the Governor shall choose appointed members so as to  
7 have a broad distribution from among:

8 (1) veterans and veterans' [groups] ORGANIZATIONS; and

9 (2) the geographical areas of the State.

10 [9-922.] 9-926.

11 (a) From among its members, the Veterans' Home Commission shall elect a  
12 chairman, a secretary, and any other officers that the Commission considers  
13 appropriate.

14 (b) The manner of election of officers and their terms of office shall be as the  
15 Veterans' Home Commission determines.

16 [9-923.] 9-927.

17 (a) Seven members of the Veterans' Home Commission are a quorum to do  
18 business.

19 (b) (1) The Veterans' Home Commission shall meet:

20 (i) at least twice a year, at the times and places that it determines;  
21 and

22 (ii) at the call of the Chairman, on the Chairman's initiative or on  
23 the request of at least 4 members.

24 (2) Unless all of the members of the Veterans' Home Commission agree  
25 otherwise, the secretary of the Commission shall give each member at least 7 days'  
26 written notice of a meeting.

27 (3) If the President is unable to attend a meeting, the President may  
28 designate a Senator or an employee of the General Assembly to represent the  
29 President at the meeting.

30 (4) If the Speaker is unable to attend a meeting, the Speaker may  
31 designate a Delegate or an employee of the General Assembly to represent the  
32 Speaker at the meeting.

33 (5) If the Governor is unable to attend a meeting, the Governor may  
34 designate another individual to represent the Governor at the meeting.

1 (c) A member of the Veterans' Home Commission:

2 (1) may not receive compensation, but

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

5 [9-924.

6 The Attorney General is the legal adviser to the Veterans' Home Commission.]

7 [9-925.] 9-928.

8 (A) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY, THE VETERANS' HOME  
9 COMMISSION MAY ADOPT PROCEDURES TO:

10 (1) GOVERN ITSELF; AND

11 (2) CARRY OUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VETERANS' HOME  
12 COMMISSION.

13 (B) THE COMMISSION:

14 (1) MAY NOT INCUR ANY EXPENSES WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE  
15 DEPARTMENT; AND

16 (2) AT EACH REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OR MORE OFTEN  
17 AS IT DIRECTS, SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT A REPORT ON ANY ACTION  
18 THAT THE COMMISSION HAS TAKEN SINCE ITS LAST REPORT.

19 [(a)] (C) (1) The Veterans' Home Commission shall through the Department  
20 submit an annual report:

21 (i) to the Governor; and

22 (ii) subject to § 2-1246 of this article, to the General Assembly.

23 (2) The annual report shall:

24 (i) describe the activities of the Commission; and

25 (ii) include any recommendations for furthering the purposes of the  
26 Commission.

27 [(b)] (D) As far as practicable, the Veterans' Home Commission shall cooperate  
28 with persons and public agencies to carry out the purposes and goals of the  
29 Commission AND DEPARTMENT.

1 [9-926.

2 (a) The Veterans' Home Commission may with the approval of the Secretary  
3 adopt regulations to:

4 (1) govern itself; and

5 (2) carry out the purposes and goals of the Commission.

6 (b) (1) The Veterans' Home Commission may take any necessary and proper  
7 action to carry out a specific power under this Part III of this subtitle.

8 (2) Subject to the legislative purposes of this Part III of this subtitle, the  
9 Veterans' Home Commission may make contracts and other legal agreements.

10 (c) (1) The Veterans' Home Commission may delegate any of its powers to a  
11 committee of 1 or more of its members or to the Commandant of the Home.

12 (2) If the Veterans' Home Commission delegates any power to a  
13 committee of its members, the committee:

14 (i) may not incur any expenses without the consent of the  
15 Commission; and

16 (ii) at each regular meeting of the Commission or more often as it  
17 directs, shall submit to the Commission a report on any action that the committee has  
18 taken since its last report.]

19 [9-930.] 9-929.

20 The State is not obligated to provide capital or operating funds for the Veterans'  
21 Home Commission but may appropriate money for the purposes and goals of the  
22 Commission.

23 9-930. RESERVED.

24 9-931. RESERVED.

25 Part IV. War Memorial Commission.

26 [9-931.] 9-932.

27 In this Part IV of this subtitle, "Commission" means the War Memorial  
28 Commission.

29 [9-932.] 9-933.

30 There is a War Memorial Commission in the Department of Veterans Affairs.



1 [9-933.] 9-934.

2 (a) (1) The Commission consists of 10 members.

3 (2) Of the 10 Commission members:

4 (i) 5 shall be appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, with  
5 the approval of the Governor; and

6 (ii) 5 shall be appointed by the Mayor of Baltimore City.

7 (b) Each member must be a Maryland war veteran.

8 (c) (1) The term of a member is 5 years.

9 (2) The terms of a member are staggered as required by the terms  
10 provided for members of the Commission on October 1, 1984.

11 (3) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is  
12 appointed and qualifies.

13 (4) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for  
14 the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

15 [9-934.] 9-935.

16 (a) From among its members, the Commission may elect:

17 (1) a chairman;

18 (2) a vice chairman; and

19 (3) a secretary and a treasurer or a secretary-treasurer.

20 (b) The manner of election of officers and their terms of office shall be as the  
21 Commission determines.

22 [9-935.] 9-936.

23 (a) A member of the Commission may not receive compensation.

24 (b) If the Commission approves the reimbursement and records the vote in the  
25 minutes, a member is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard  
26 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

27 [9-936.] 9-937.

28 The State and Baltimore City jointly shall hold title to the War Memorial  
29 Building and the memorial site.

1 [9-937.] 9-938.

2 (a) The Commission may provide for management of the War Memorial  
3 Building as provided in this section.

4 (b) (1) The Commission shall adopt regulations that provide for the  
5 management of the War Memorial Building in a manner that:

6 (i) permits the greatest possible use of the building by the people of  
7 the State and by patriotic organizations in the State; and

8 (ii) to the extent possible, permits the use by the patriotic  
9 organizations without cost.

10 (2) The Commission shall enforce the regulations.

11 (c) The Commission may appoint a custodian and a janitor for the War  
12 Memorial Building.

13 (d) The Commission may use, for the maintenance and administration of the  
14 building, any funds that the General Assembly or the Mayor and City Council of  
15 Baltimore appropriate for those purposes.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
17 ~~October~~ June 1, 2006.