
By: **Senator Britt**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2006

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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)

30 Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 **ARTICLE 49E - MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR MEN**

34 1.

35 (A) IN THIS ARTICLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
36 INDICATED.

1 (B) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR MEN.

2 (C) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

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

4 2.

5 (A) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF:

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

8 (2) FOUR INDIVIDUALS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
9 OF MARYLAND; AND

10 (3) FOUR INDIVIDUALS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
11 DELEGATES.

12 (B) (1) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE
13 APPOINTED FROM AMONG APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN NOMINATED AND
14 RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT BY ORGANIZATIONS LOCATED IN THE STATE
15 WHOSE INTERESTS RELATE TO MEN'S HEALTH OR FAMILY INVOLVEMENT:

16 (I) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

17 (II) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
18 OF MARYLAND; AND

19 (III) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
20 OF DELEGATES.

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

23 (I) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

24 (II) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
25 OF MARYLAND; AND

26 (III) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
27 OF DELEGATES.

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

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

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

1 (4) A COMMISSIONER MAY NOT SERVE MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE
2 TERMS.

3 (D) A COMMISSIONER:

4 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE
5 COMMISSION; BUT

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

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

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

14 3.

15 (A) THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT A CHAIR AND A VICE CHAIR FROM AMONG
16 ITS MEMBERS.

17 (B) THE COMMISSION MAY APPOINT ANY OFFICERS THAT IT CONSIDERS
18 NECESSARY.

19 3A.

20 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE
21 COMMISSION.

22 (B) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL BE A MERIT EMPLOYEE OF THE
23 DEPARTMENT.

24 (C) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS ENTITLED TO THE SALARY PROVIDED IN
25 THE STATE BUDGET.

26 4.

27 THE COMMISSION:

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

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

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

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

4 (2) SHALL REVIEW THE HEALTH STATUS OF MEN IN THE STATE AND
5 FOCUS ON HEALTH OUTCOMES OF MEN FOR SPECIFIC DISEASES, INCLUDING
6 PROSTATE AND TESTICULAR CANCER, ORAL CANCER, CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE,
7 DEPRESSION, AND DIABETES;

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

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

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

14 5.

15 (A) (1) THE COMMISSION, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY,
16 MAY ACCEPT:

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

19 (II) PRIVATE GIFTS AND DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS, PRIVATE
20 ORGANIZATIONS, OR FOUNDATIONS.

21 (2) THE ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS MAY NOT BE
22 CONSIDERED A COMMITMENT OF STATE FUNDS AND PLACES NO OBLIGATION ON
23 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONTINUE THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE FUNDS ARE
24 AVAILABLE.

25 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE THE COMMISSION IN ITS ANNUAL
26 BUDGET.

27 6.

28 THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE THE FULL COOPERATION OF ALL EXECUTIVE
29 DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF THE STATE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS DUTIES.

30 7.

31 THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND,
32 SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL
33 ASSEMBLY THROUGH THE SECRETARY AND SHALL INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS
34 BASED ON ITS STUDIES.

1 8.

2 THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO ADOPT RULES AND
3 REGULATIONS.

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

7 (1) in 2008, two members appointed by the Governor, one member
8 appointed by the President of the Senate; and one member appointed by the Speaker
9 of the House of Delegates;

10 (2) in 2009, one member appointed by the Governor, two members
11 appointed by the President of the Senate, and one member appointed by the Speaker
12 of the House of Delegates; and

13 (3) in 2010, one member appointed by the Governor, one member
14 appointed by the President of the Senate, and two members appointed by the Speaker
15 of the House of Delegates.

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

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

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

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