

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1719

(Delegate C. Davis)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Government - Maryland Veterans Commission - Membership

This bill increases the membership of the Maryland Veterans Commission from 30 to 31 by adding one member to be selected from a list of individuals submitted to the Governor by the Colonial Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Reimbursement for travel and miscellaneous expenses for an additional member could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Maryland Veterans Commission consists of 30 members. The Chairman of the Veterans' Home Commission is an ex officio member, and the remaining 29 members are appointed by the Governor. One member is to be appointed from each of the eight congressional districts in the State, one must be a veteran of World War II, one must be a veteran of the Persian Gulf War, and one must be a representative of a women veterans organization in the State. Of the remaining members, one each is to be appointed from lists of individuals submitted by various veterans organizations, including, but not limited to, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc., the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, the Polish League of American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign War, and the Black Veterans of All Wars, Inc. A member is not entitled to

compensation, but may receive reimbursement from the Department of Veteran Affairs for travel and other expenses.

Background: The Maryland Veterans Commission is dedicated to serving veterans and their dependents around the State through the Veterans Service Program. It was founded in 1924 as the Soldiers' Relief Fund Commission, dedicated to helping disabled World War I veterans. It was renamed the Maryland Veterans Commission in 1935.

The Veterans Service Program provides assistance in the preparation, development, and resolution of claims for veterans. These claims include service-related disability compensation, pension, death benefits, and other benefits available for veterans from federal, state, and local organizations. The commission also oversees the Veterans Cemetery Program (which provides burial sites and services for veterans and their dependents), and the Veterans Memorials and Monuments Program (which operates, secures, and maintains three memorials and monuments honoring Maryland veterans).

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/jr

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