

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 149

(Senator Kelley, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

Maryland Commission for Women - Appointment of Members

This bill alters the appointment process for members of the Maryland Commission for Women by requiring the Governor to appoint all members with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Altering the appointment process for commission members does not affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill removes the authority of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to individually appoint members to the commission. Twelve members must be appointed from among applicants recommended by organizations located in the State whose interests relate to the status of women and 13 must be from among applicants applying on their own behalf.

Commissioners whose terms end in 2009, 2010, and 2011 may be reappointed by the Governor for one additional consecutive term of office or replaced with new members nominated and appointed in accordance with the bill's provisions.

Current Law: The Maryland Commission for Women consists of 25 members: 9 gubernatorial appointees, 8 individuals appointed by the President of the Senate, and 8 individuals appointed by the Speaker of the House. All gubernatorial appointees must be appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate. Of the 25 members, 12 must be appointed from among applicants nominated by organizations located in the State whose interests relate to the status of women and 13 must be appointed from applicants applying on their own behalf. Appointments must ensure geographic diversity of membership. Members serve four-year terms and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Members are not entitled to compensation for their services.

Background: The Maryland Commission for Women was established by the General Assembly in 1971. The commission advises government, advances solutions, and serves as a statewide resource to expand social, political, and economic opportunities for all women through such programs as the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, the Women of Tomorrow Awards, and dissemination of information of interest to women and girls.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Governor's Office, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 29, 2009
mcp/hlb Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 23, 2009

Analysis by: Jennifer B. Chasse

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510