

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 291

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

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

---

**State Government - Maryland Veterans Commission - Membership**

---

This departmental bill specifies that one member of the Maryland Veterans Commission must be a woman veteran appointed from the State at large. This requirement replaces the current requirement that one member must be a representative of a women veterans organization in the State.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Altering the commission's membership composition does not affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Maryland Veterans Commission consists of 28 members. Seventeen are appointed from lists submitted by various veterans' organizations, one member is appointed from each of the State's eight Congressional districts, one is a veteran appointed from the State at large, one is a representative of a retired enlisted organization, and one is a representative of a women veterans organization.

**Background:** The Maryland Veterans Commission advises the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on all matters pertaining to veterans' issues. 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. Along with the Maryland Veterans Home Commission and the War Memorial Commission, the Maryland Veterans Commission became part of DVA in 1999. Among other things, Chapter 238 of 2006 reduced the commission's membership from 30 to 27. Chapter 362 of 2007 increased the membership of the Maryland Veterans Commission from 27 to 28 by adding one member selected by the Governor from a list of individuals submitted by the Colonial Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

DVA advises that the Chesapeake Beacon Chapter of the Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association and the United Female Veterans of America, Inc. are the only two women veterans organizations in the State. However, many women veterans belong to other organizations for veterans – such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the American Legion – that do not qualify as women veterans organizations. Thus, DVA advises that the bill increases the opportunities for female veterans to participate as members of the commission.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 4, 2011  
mc/ljm

---

Analysis by: Michael T. Vorgetts

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

## ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: State Government – Maryland Veterans Commission - Membership

BILL NUMBER: SB 291

PREPARED BY: Veterans Affairs

### PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

### PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.