

# SENATE BILL 149

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By: **Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request – Departmental – Veterans Affairs)**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 15, 2012

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Maryland Veterans Commission – Membership**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the composition of the Maryland Veterans Commission by  
4 adding a ~~representative~~ member who is a veteran of certain conflicts ~~to serve on~~  
5 ~~the Maryland Veterans Commission;~~ and a certain honorary nonvoting member  
6 to serve on the Commission and removing a member of a certain organization  
7 from the ~~Maryland Veterans~~ Commission; making a stylistic change; and  
8 generally relating to the Maryland Veterans Commission.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – State Government  
11 Section 9–916  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article – State Government  
16 Section 9–917  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 **Article – State Government**

2 9–916.

3 There is a Maryland Veterans Commission in the Department that shall advise  
4 the Secretary of all matters pertaining to veterans issues.

5 9–917.

6 (a) (1) The Commission consists of ~~28~~ **THE FOLLOWING** members  
7 appointed by the Governor.

8 (2) Of the members:

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

11 (ii) 1 shall be a veteran appointed from the State at large;

12 (iii) 1 shall be a woman veteran appointed from the State at  
13 large;14 (iv) 1 shall be a representative of a retired enlisted organization;  
15 [and]16 **(V) 1 SHALL BE A VETERAN OF THE IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN**  
17 **CONFLICT, AS DEFINED IN § 1–202(A–1) OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE; ~~AND~~**18 **[(v)] (VI)** 1 shall be appointed from a list of individuals  
19 submitted to the Governor by each of the following organizations:

20 1. the American Ex–Prisoners of War, Inc.;

21 2. the American Legion;

22 3. the Amvets;

23 4. the Catholic War Veterans;

24 5. the Disabled American Veterans;

25 6. the Fleet Reserve Association;

26 7. the Jewish War Veterans;

27 8. the Marine Corps League;

- 1  
2 America;
- 3 9. the Maryland Military Officers Association of
- 4 10. the Military Order of the Purple Heart;
- 5 [11. the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association;]
- 6 [12.] 11. the Polish Legion of American Veterans;
- 7 [13.] 12. the Veterans of Foreign Wars;
- 8 [14.] 13. the Vietnam Veterans of America;
- 9 [15.] 14. the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.;
- 10 [16.] 15. the Black Veterans of All Wars, Inc.; and
- 11 [17.] 16. the Colonial Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans  
of America; AND

12 (VII) 1 SHALL BE AN HONORARY NONVOTING MEMBER  
13 APPOINTED FROM A LIST OF INDIVIDUALS SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR BY  
14 THE PEARL HARBOR SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION.

- 15 (b) Each member must be a resident of the State and a veteran.
- 16 (c) (1) The term of an appointed member is 5 years.
- 17 (2) The terms of the appointed members are staggered as required by  
18 the terms provided for members of the Commission on October 1, 1984.
- 19 (3) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor  
20 is appointed and qualifies.
- 21 (4) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for  
22 the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.
- 23 (5) When an organization is no longer a part of the Commission, the  
24 appointment shall terminate at the end of the current member's term.
- 25 (d) A new organization may not be eligible for representation on the  
26 Commission, by appointment of the Governor, unless it is congressionally chartered.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
28 October 1, 2012.