

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 149 (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 veteran of the Iraq or Afghanistan conflict. The bill also changes membership for an individual appointed from a list submitted to the Governor by the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association from voting to honorary nonvoting membership. The total voting membership of the commission remains at 28.

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. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

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 woman veteran appointed from the State at large, and one is a representative of a retired enlisted 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 was advised in 2008 that Maryland Chapter 1 of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association would no longer be able to participate as active members of the commission, due to declining mobility of the association's members.

Chapter 211 of 2011 specified that one member of the commission must be a woman veteran appointed from the State at large. This requirement replaced a requirement that one member must be a representative of a women veterans organization in the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 30, 2012
mm/mwc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 27, 2012

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

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

BILL NUMBER: SB 149

PREPARED BY: Maryland Department of 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.