

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1156 (Delegate Metzgar)
 Health and Government Operations

Commission on Men and Fatherhood (Fatherhood Protection Act)

This emergency bill establishes the Commission on Men and Fatherhood in the Department of Human Services (DHS). The Secretary of Human Services must appoint an executive director of the commission who must be a merit employee of DHS. The commission must annually elect a chair and vice chair. Members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under standard State travel regulations as provided in the State budget. The commission may not adopt regulations. By December 1 each year, the commission must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$132,700 in FY 2022 to hire an executive director for the commission. Future years reflect elimination of one-time costs and ongoing operating expenses. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	132,700	121,600	125,300	129,500	133,900
Net Effect	(\$132,700)	(\$121,600)	(\$125,300)	(\$129,500)	(\$133,900)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The commission consists of 25 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Of the 25 members, 12 must be appointed from among applicants who have been nominated and recommended for appointment by organizations located in the State whose interests related to the status of men and 13 must be appointed from among applicants applying on their own behalf. The Secretary of Human Services and the Secretary of Health (or their designees) may participate as *ex officio* nonvoting members. Appointments must ensure geographic diversity of membership.

The term of a member is four years. A member may not serve for more than two consecutive terms. At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies. A member who is appointed after a term has begun must serve for the remainder of the term or until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

The commission must meet at least six times each year and must:

- study and review the status of men in the State;
- strengthen home life by directing attention to critical problems confronting men as husbands, fathers, homemakers, and workers;
- recommend methods of overcoming discrimination against men in public and private employment and in family law disputes;
- encourage men to become candidates for public office;
- promote more effective methods for enabling men to develop skills, continue education, and be retrained;
- secure appropriate recognition of men's accomplishments and contributions to the State;
- work to develop healthy attitudes within the framework of the commission's responsibilities; and
- inform the Executive and Legislative branches on issues concerning men, including offering testimony on specified issues before legislative and administrative bodies.

The commission may act as a clearinghouse for activities to avoid duplication of effort. The commission may also develop surveys and appoint advisory committees in fields including education, social services, labor and employment, law enforcement, health and safety, legal rights, family relations, human relations, and volunteer services.

Current Law: 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. The commission must:

- stimulate and encourage study and review of the status of women in the State;
- strengthen home life by directing attention to critical problems confronting women as wives, mothers, homemakers, and workers;
- recommend methods of overcoming discrimination against women in public and private employment;
- encourage women to become candidates for public office;
- promote more effective methods for enabling women to develop their skills, continue their education, and to be retrained;
- secure appropriate recognition of women’s accomplishments and contributions to the State;
- work to develop healthy attitudes within the framework of the commission’s responsibilities; and
- inform the Executive and Legislative branches on issues concerning women, including offering testimony on these issues.

The Commission for Women may (1) act as a clearinghouse for activities to avoid duplication of effort and (2) make surveys and appoint advisory committees in the fields of education, social services, labor laws and employment policies, law enforcement, health and safety, new and expanded services, legal rights, family relations, human relations, and volunteer services. The commission must submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly. The commission’s 2020 report can be found [here](#).

State Expenditures: Under the bill, the Secretary of Human Services must appoint an executive director of the commission. Based on personnel expenditures for the Maryland Commission for Women, DHS general fund expenditures increase by \$132,739 in fiscal 2022. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one executive director to lead the Commission on Men and Fatherhood. The estimate assumes that the bill takes effect on April 1, 2021 (given the bill’s emergency status), and that the executive director begins on July 1, 2021. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses, including travel.

Position	1.0
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$122,944
Operating Expenses	<u>9,745</u>
Total FY 2022 Personnel Expenditures	\$132,739

This estimate does not reflect any costs for reimbursement of the executive director or the 25 members of the commission for a minimum of six meetings annually or any potential commission activities.

Future year expenditures reflect a full salary with annual increases and employee turnover and ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 807 (Senator Salling) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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an/jc

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