

HOUSE BILL 1300

P1

6lr3143

By: **Delegates Hill, D. Jones, Alston, Bagnall, Bartlett, Boyce, Charkoudian, Crutchfield, Davis, Embry, Feldmark, Fennell, Foley, Forbes, Guzzone, Harrison, Healey, Kaiser, Lehman, Lewis, Lopez, Mireku–North, Palakovich Carr, Pasteur, Patterson, Phillips, Qi, Queen, Roberts, Ross, Ruth, Sample–Hughes, Simpson, Smith, Taveras, Taylor, Terrasa, Toles, Valderrama, Watson, White Holland, Wilkins, Woods, and Ziegler**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Commission for Women – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the authority of the Secretary of Human Services to appoint
4 the executive director of the Maryland Commission for Women; providing that the
5 executive director of the Commission is not a special appointee; altering the duties
6 of the Commission; and generally relating to the Maryland Commission for Women.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Human Services
9 Section 2–402
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Human Services
14 Section 2–405 and 2–406
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Human Services**

20 2–402.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) There is a Maryland Commission for Women in the Department.

2 (b) The Commission shall report to the Governor and the General Assembly
3 through the Secretary.

4 2-405.

5 (a) The [Secretary shall appoint an] executive director of the Commission **IS NOT**
6 **CONSIDERED A SPECIAL APPOINTEE.**

7 (b) The executive director shall be a merit employee of the Department.

8 (c) The executive director is entitled to the compensation provided in the State
9 budget.

10 2-406.

11 (a) (1) The Commission shall:

12 (i) stimulate and encourage study and review of the status of women
13 in the State;

14 (ii) strengthen [home life] **THE CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN IN AND**
15 **OUT OF THE HOME** by directing attention to critical problems confronting women as wives,
16 mothers, homemakers, and workers;

17 [(iii) recommend methods of overcoming discrimination against
18 women in public and private employment;

19 (iv) encourage women to become candidates for public office;

20 (v) promote more effective methods for enabling women to develop
21 skills, continue education, and be retrained;]

22 **(III) CONDUCT STUDIES AND ASSIST WITH PROGRAMS,**
23 **SEMINARS, AND CONFERENCES TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT ISSUES**
24 **IMPACTING WOMEN;**

25 **(IV) SUPPORT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE THE**
26 **WELL-BEING OF WOMEN;**

27 **(V) PROVIDE PUBLICITY FOR A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES**
28 **AFFECTING WOMEN, INCLUDING PERSONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, LIFE**
29 **TRANSITIONS, AND CAREER-RELATED ISSUES;**

1 **(VI) PROMOTE AND ASSIST LOCAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS**
2 **FOCUSED ON IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN;**

3 **(VII) ADVOCATE FOR LEGISLATION SUPPORTING WAGE**
4 **EQUALITY, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOSTERING SOCIAL**
5 **INCLUSION AND HUMAN RELATIONS, AND OTHER POLICIES THAT PROMOTE THE**
6 **EQUALITY AND FLOURISHING OF ALL PEOPLE;**

7 **(VIII) ENCOURAGE AND EMPOWER WOMEN TO COMPETE FOR**
8 **LEADERSHIP ROLES AND PROVIDE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN**
9 **THROUGHOUT THEIR CAREERS;**

10 **(IX) OFFER PROGRAMS ON CAREER DEVELOPMENT, FINANCIAL**
11 **WELLNESS, AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION;**

12 **[(vi)] (X) secure appropriate recognition of women's**
13 **accomplishments and contributions to the State;**

14 **[(vii) work to develop healthy attitudes within the framework of the**
15 **Commission's responsibilities;] and**

16 **[(viii)] (XI) inform the executive and legislative branches of**
17 **government on issues concerning women, including BY offering testimony on these issues**
18 **before legislative and administrative bodies.**

19 (2) The Commission may:

20 (i) act as a clearinghouse for activities to avoid duplication of effort;
21 and

22 (ii) make surveys and appoint advisory committees in **ALL** fields
23 **AFFECTING THE LIVES OF WOMEN IN THE STATE**, including education, social services,
24 labor laws and employment policies, law enforcement, health and safety, new and expanded
25 services, legal rights, family relations, human relations, and volunteer services.

26 (b) Through the Secretary, the Commission shall submit an annual report
27 including recommendations based on the Commission's studies to the Governor and, subject
28 to § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly.

29 (c) The Commission may not adopt regulations.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 October 1, 2026.