

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2026

CHAPTER _____

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 and is in the skilled
6 service in the State Personnel Management System; altering the duties of the
7 Commission; and generally relating to the Maryland Commission for Women.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Human Services

10 Section 2–402

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Human Services

15 Section 2–405 and 2–406

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

3 **Article – Human Services**

4 2–402.

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

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

8 2–405.

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

11 (b) The executive director:

12 **(1) shall be a merit employee of the Department; AND**

13 **(2) IS IN THE SKILLED SERVICE IN THE STATE PERSONNEL**
14 **MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.**

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

17 2–406.

18 (a) (1) The Commission shall:

19 (i) stimulate and encourage study and review of the status of women
20 in the State;

21 (ii) strengthen [home life] **THE CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN IN ~~AND~~**
22 **~~OUT OF THE HOME~~ SOCIETY** by directing **CRITICAL** attention to critical problems
23 confronting women ~~as wives, mothers, homemakers, and workers~~ **IN THEIR VARIOUS**
24 **ROLES;**

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

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

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

1 (III) CONDUCT RESEARCH ON ISSUES THAT IMPACT WOMEN AND
2 IDENTIFY EXISTING DISPARITIES;

3 (IV) CONDUCT STUDIES AND ASSIST WITH PROGRAMS,
4 SEMINARS, AND CONFERENCES TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT ISSUES
5 IMPACTING WOMEN;

6 ~~(IV)~~ (V) SUPPORT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE
7 THE WELL-BEING OF WOMEN;

8 ~~(V)~~ (VI) ~~PROVIDE PUBLICITY FOR~~ RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS
9 OF A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES AFFECTING WOMEN, INCLUDING ~~PERSONAL GROWTH~~
10 ~~AND DEVELOPMENT~~ ECONOMIC SECURITY, LIFE TRANSITIONS, AND ~~CAREER-~~
11 ~~RELATED ISSUES~~ WOMEN'S HEALTH;

12 ~~(VI)~~ (VII) PROMOTE AND ASSIST STATEWIDE WOMEN'S
13 ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL COMMISSIONS FOR WOMEN, AND LOCAL VOLUNTEER
14 PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN;

15 ~~(VII)~~ (VIII) ADVOCATE FOR LEGISLATION SUPPORTING ~~WAGE~~
16 ~~EQUALITY, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOSTERING~~ WOMEN'S
17 ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, WOMEN'S HEALTH, CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL
18 INCLUSION ~~AND HUMAN RELATIONS~~, AND OTHER POLICIES THAT PROMOTE THE
19 EQUALITY AND FLOURISHING OF ALL PEOPLE;

20 ~~(VIII)~~ ENCOURAGE AND EMPOWER WOMEN TO COMPETE FOR
21 LEADERSHIP ROLES AND PROVIDE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN
22 THROUGHOUT THEIR CAREERS;

23 (IX) RECOMMEND STRATEGIES TO REDUCE DISCRIMINATION
24 AND INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, THE
25 LAW, STATE GOVERNMENT, AND ELECTED AND APPOINTED POSITIONS ACROSS
26 PROFESSIONS AND WITHIN SOCIETY;

27 ~~(IX)~~ (X) ~~OFFER~~ SUPPORT PARTNER ORGANIZATION
28 PROGRAMS ON CAREER DEVELOPMENT, FINANCIAL WELLNESS, AND VIOLENCE
29 PREVENTION;

30 [(vi)] ~~(X)~~ (XI) secure appropriate recognition of women's
31 accomplishments and contributions to the State;

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

1 [(viii)] ~~(XI)~~ (XII) inform the executive and legislative branches of
2 government on issues concerning women, including **BY** offering testimony on these issues
3 before legislative and administrative bodies.

4 (2) The Commission may:

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

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

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

14 (c) The Commission may not adopt regulations.

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.