

# Maryland Commission for Women

51 Monroe Street, Suite. 1034 Rockville, Maryland 20850



[www.marylandwomen.org](http://www.marylandwomen.org)

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Executive Director

**HB 1300** *Maryland Commission for Women - Alterations*

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Hill

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Senate Education Energy and the Environment Committee,

The Maryland Commission for Women urges a Favorable report on HB1300. This legislation aligns the statute with current Commission practices. This will ensure the statute more clearly reflects the ongoing work of the Commission.

The Maryland Commission for Women is a 60 year old state agency dedicated to advancing policy solutions to improve the lives of Maryland women. We have a small staff of four employees, three interns and 25 volunteer Commissioners who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. 12 of these Commissioners are representatives of women's organizations across the state. 13 are individuals.

The Commission prioritizes advancing women's rights through facilitating research, policy development and implementation, communications, and outreach and engagement with the state's women's rights organizations. We also advise the legislature and the executive branch on women's rights issues.

HB1300 updates our statute by:

- Removing outdated language related to women.
- Requiring the Commission to work with the 17 local Commissions for Women that have been established across Maryland
- Updating the responsibilities of the Commission to include partnerships with statewide women's organizations in alignment with our appointments structure.
- Clarifying confusing language around the Executive Director's employment classification.

These changes reflect our current practices. In our 60th Anniversary year, modernizing the language in our statute to reflect our research, policy development, public education, and partnerships is welcome.

The Maryland Commission for Women urges a favorable report. Please contact Executive Director Ariana Kelly with any questions at [Ariana.kelly@maryland.gov](mailto:Ariana.kelly@maryland.gov) or 240-338-0591.