

# Maryland Commission for Women

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www.marylandwomen.org  
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Executive Director

**HB 1076** *Maryland Commission for Women - Alterations*

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Hill

**HEARING:** March 4, 2026

**POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr and Members of the Government, Labor and Elections Subcommittee,

The Maryland Commission for Women thanks Delegate Hill for HB1300 which intends to modernize the Commission for Women Statute. We urge a favorable report with the attached sponsor amendments.

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 full time employees, three interns and 25 volunteer Commissioners who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

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. Our policy priorities identified by the Commissioners include advancing women's health, women in the workplace and society, and the care economy.

Our statute has not been substantially updated since 1971. Delegate Hill's legislation, as amended, aligns the statutory responsibilities with the modern role of the Commission for Women. This includes eliminating outdated language about the roles of women in society and dated framing of women's workplace and electoral opportunities. New language includes aligning the statutory responsibilities with the existing requirement that the Commission include 12 appointees from statewide women's organizations. It also adds a specific responsibility to assist our 17 local Commissions for Women. In addition, the legislation clarifies confusing language in the existing statute about the employment classification of our Executive Director, who should be a permanent following the requirements for "skilled service" employees.

Please contact Executive Director Ariana Kelly with any questions at Ariana.kelly@maryland.gov or 240-338-0591.

The sponsor recommends the following amendments:

Page 2, Line 7: **“(b) The executive director shall be a merit employee of the Department classified as “skilled service.”**

Page 2, Line 16, slight wording change: **“Strengthen the conditions for women in society by directing critical attention to critical problems confronting women in their various roles.”**

Page 2, Line 17 (at Deleted Scope), add the following: **“Conduct research on issues that impact women and identify existing disparities.” AND “Recommend strategies to reduce discrimination and increase opportunities for women in employment, education, the law, state government, elected and appointed positions, across professions and within society”**

Page 2, Line 27, slight wording change: **“Raise public awareness of a wide range of issues affecting women including life transitions, economic security, and women’s health.”**

Page 3, Line 1, slight wording change to add: **“promote and assist statewide women’s organizations, local commissions for women, and local volunteer programs”**

Page 3, Line 3, slight wording change: **“Advocate for legislation supporting women’s economic empowerment, women’s health, cultural development, social inclusion and other policies that promote the flourishing of all people.”**

Page 3, Line 7-9: strike.

Page 3, Line 10, add: **“Support Partner Organization Programs”** and strike **“Offer.”**