COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2020, Legislative Day No. 30

Bill No. 97-20

Introduced by Ms. Pickard, Chair
(by request of the County Executive)

and by Mr. Pruski

By the County Council, November 2, 2020

Introduced and first read on November 2, 2020
Public Hearing set for and held on December 7, 2020
Public Hearing on AMENDED bill set for and held on December 21, 2020
Bill Expires on February 5, 2021

By Order: JoAnne Gray, Administrative Officer

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ORDINANCE concerning: Boards, Commissions, and Similar Bodies – Veterans Affairs Commission

FOR the purpose of clarifying the name of the Veterans Affairs Commission; establishing the purpose of the Veterans Affairs Commission; modifying the composition, terms of members, and meeting procedures of the Veterans Affairs Commission; amending the powers and duties of the Veterans Affairs Commission; modifying the due date of the annual report; making technical corrections; and generally relating to boards, commissions, and similar bodies.

BY renumbering: §§ 43-12A-102 through 43-12A-109, respectively, to be §§ 43-12A-103 through 43-12A-110, respectively
Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)

BY adding: § 3-12A-102
Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments: §§ 3-12A-101; 43-12A-103; 3-12A-104; 3-12A-105; 3-12A-106; 3-12A-107; 3-12A-109; and 3-12A-110
Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate new matter added to existing law. [[Brackets]] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Captions and taglines in bold in this bill are catchwords and are not law. Underlining indicates amendments to bill. Strikeover indicates matter stricken from bill by amendment.
SECT1. Be it enacted by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 
That §§ 43-12A-102 through 43-12A-109, respectively, of the Anne Arundel County Code 
(2005, as amended) are hereby renumbered to be §§ 43-12A-103 through 43-12A-110, 
respectively.

SECTION 2. And be it further enacted, That Section(s) of the Anne Arundel County 
Code (2005, as amended) read as follows:

ARTICLE 3. BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND SIMILAR BODIES

TITLE 12A. VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION


There is a Veterans Affairs Commission TO BE KNOWN AS THE “ANNE ARUNDEL 
COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION”.

3-12A-102. Purpose.

THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO ADVOCATE AND HELP TO ENHANCE THE 
QUALITY OF LIFE FOR VETERANS OF MILITARY SERVICE AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO LIVE 
OR WORK WITHIN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BY ADVISING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND 
THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNMENT 
policies, programs, services, and the allocation of resources for veterans 
and their families.

[[3-12A-102.]] 3-12A-103. Composition.

(A) Voting members. The Commission consists of 13 voting members appointed 
by the county executive, each of whom has separated from the military service under 
honorable conditions. The commission shall endeavor to be a diverse body of 
members from all branches of the military. Of the 13 members:

(1) Two shall be [a] qualified [veteran] veterans, pursuant to the 
guidelines of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

(2) one shall be [a resident of the County who owns or operates] an owner or 
operator of a local business or [is] an employee of a local business, [and is] selected 
in consultation with the Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce;

(3) one shall be [a County resident who is] an educator or educational 
administrator [and is] selected in consultation with the Anne Arundel Community 
College;

(4) one shall be a County resident who is a veteran of any branch of the military 
service that served at any time during the Cold War period - September 2, 1945 to 
December 26, 1991; and
nine shall be [County residents,] SELECTED BY THE VOTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION from any of the following organizations and [selected] in consultation with that organization:

(i) the Veterans of Foreign Wars;
(ii) the American Legion;
(iii) AMVETS;
(iv) Disabled American Veterans;
(v) Military Order of the Purple Heart;
(vi) Fleet Reserve Association;
(vii) Vietnam Veterans of America;
(viii) Korean War Veterans Association; [and]
(ix) a women’s veterans organization[.];
(X) MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA;
(XI) NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS;
(XII) NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA;
(XIII) RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION;
(XIV) IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA;
(XV) STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA;
(XVI) WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT; AND
(XVII) PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA; AND
(XVIII) OTHER SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

(B) Non-voting members. THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE FOUR NON-VOTING MEMBERS WHO SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE VOTING MEMBERS.

(C) Residency. EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE A RESIDENT OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.

[[3-12A-103.]] 3-12A-104. Term of members.

(a) Generally. [A member serves until the County Executive's term ends.]] MEMBERS SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE. THE INITIAL TERMS OF
NEWLY APPOINTED VOTING MEMBERS SHALL BE STAGGERED SO THAT FOUR MEMBERS
SHALL SERVE INITIAL TERMS OF ONE YEAR, FOUR MEMBERS SHALL SERVE INITIAL TERMS
OF TWO YEARS, AND FIVE MEMBERS SHALL SERVE INITIAL TERMS OF THREE YEARS. NON-
VOTING MEMBERS, AND, AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THE INITIAL TERMS, VOTING
MEMBERS SHALL SERVE THREE YEAR TERMS. A MEMBER WHOSE TERM HAS EXPIRED
HOLDS OVER UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED. A MEMBER MAY SERVE UP TO THREE
CONSECUTIVE FULL TERMS, AND, AFTER A ONE-YEAR LAPSE IN SERVICE, A MEMBER IS
ELIGIBLE TO BE REAPPOINTED.

(b) **Removal for cause.** [[A member whose term has expired holds over until a
successor is appointed.]] A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MAY BE REMOVED BY THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE FOR CAUSE, INCLUDING ABSENCE FROM 25% OR MORE OF THE
SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND HEARINGS OF THE COMMISSION DURING ANY 12-MONTH
PERIOD.

(c) **Vacancies.** The County Executive shall fill a vacancy for the remainder of an
unexpired term of a member.

[[3-12A-104.]] 3-12A-105. **Chair.**

The Chair shall be [[the member of the Commission who is the qualified veteran
selected]] APPOINTED by the County Executive FROM AMONG THE VOTING MEMBERS OF
THE COMMISSION.

[[3-12A-105.]] 3-12A-106. **Meetings and quorum.**

(a) **Meetings.** The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chair, or at the request of
[[seven]] A MAJORITY OF THE VOTING members, as frequently as required to perform its
duties, but no less than [[four]] SIX times a year. ALL MEETINGS SHALL COMPLY WITH THE
MARYLAND OPEN MEETINGS ACT AND THIS CODE.

(b) **Quorum.** A quorum consists of a majority of the [[Commission]] VOTING
members. An affirmative vote of a majority of those VOTING MEMBERS present at any
meeting at which there is a quorum shall be sufficient for any action of the Commission.

[[3-12A-106.]] 3-12A-107. **Rules and regulations.**

The Commission shall adopt rules and regulations to govern [[its]] procedures FOR ITS
MEETINGS [[and activities]].

[[3-12A-108.]] 3-12A-109. **Powers and duties.**

Among its powers and duties, the Commission [[shall]] MAY:

(1) establish a forum for all [[Anne Arundel County]] veterans of [[military
service]] THE COUNTY;

(2) maintain coordinated communication with County and local governments,
businesses, and veterans of the County; [[and]]
(3) provide assistance, guidance, and information to the business and academic communities of the County and various levels of government to ensure adequate consideration of veterans in employment, education, training and public programs;[

(4) REVIEW COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION THAT MAY IMPACT VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE LEGISLATION;

(I) TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL; AND

(II) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, TO THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATURES AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES;

(5) ADVISE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ON THE COORDINATION OF SERVICES AMONG ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS, AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH PROVIDE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES; AND

(6) IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SOURCES OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO EXPAND OR IMPROVE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

3-12A-110. Reports.

On or before JANUARY 31 of each year, the Commission shall submit a report to the County Executive and the County Council setting forth its accomplishments for the preceding year and its goals for the forthcoming year.

SECTION 3. And be it further enacted, That this Ordinance shall take effect 45 days from the date it becomes law.

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED: December 7, 2020

READ AND PASSED this 21st day of December, 2020

By Order:

JoAnne Gray
Administrative Officer

PRESENTED to the County Executive for his approval this 22nd day of December, 2020

JoAnne Gray
Administrative Officer
APPROVED AND ENACTED this 29th day of December, 2020

Steuart Pittman
County Executive

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 12, 2021

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF BILL NO. 97-20, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH IS RETAINED IN THE FILES OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

JoAnne Gray
Administrative Officer