

Introduced 10.3.2022  
Public Hearing 10.17.2022  
Action 10.31.2022  
Executive Action 11.09.2022  
Effective Date 01.09.2023

## County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2022 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 14

### Bill No. 72 -2022

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

AN ACT to establish an Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission; providing for the membership of the Commission; providing for the purpose and duties of the Commission; providing for the method of appointment and staff; requiring certain meetings and certain reports; providing the expiration dates of the terms of the initial members of the Commission; and generally relating to an Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission.

Introduced and read first time Oct 3, 2022. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order

Michelle Harrod  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on Oct 17, 2022.

By order

Michelle Harrod  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on Oct 31 2022 and Passed ✓, Passed with amendments ✓, Failed    .

By order

Michelle Harrod  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 1 day of Nov, 2022 at 4:00 a.m./p.m.

By order

Michelle Harrod  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive November 9, 2022

Calvin Ball  
Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1       **WHEREAS**, an Asian American and Pacific Islander Workgroup was established by  
2 County Executive Ball in February of 2021 with a mission of evaluating systemic and  
3 programmatic needs for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Howard County and providing  
4 recommendations; and

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6       **WHEREAS**, an Asian American and Pacific Islander Workgroup issued a final report in  
7 2022 submitting several policy recommendations including the recommendation for a permanent  
8 Commission; and

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10       **WHEREAS**, although Howard County has made great strides in equity, diversity, and  
11 inclusion, the County Executive recognizes that more is needed to fully realize a culture of  
12 inclusion, communication, understanding and respect for Asian American and Pacific Islander  
13 families, businesses, and residents; and

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15       **WHEREAS**, there is a need for continued work on identification and implementation of  
16 policy, programs, and engagement related to increasing access to government and county  
17 resources, ensuring representation across public serving entities, and increasing equitable  
18 outcomes for Asian American and Pacific Islander families, businesses and residents; and

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20       **WHEREAS**, the County Executive is committed to elevating the critical issues of Asian  
21 American and Pacific Islander communities in Howard County and wishes to establish an Asian  
22 American and Pacific Islander Commission in order to advance policy and systemic change.

23  
24       **NOW, THEREFORE,**

25  
26       ***Section 1. Be It Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard  
27 County Code is amended as follows:

- 28       1. *By adding Section 6.349 “Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission” to Title 6.*  
29       *County Executive and the Executive Branch.*  
30       2. *Section 12.220 “Severability” of Title 12, Health and Social Services, is renumbered to be*  
31       *Section 12.221.*

3. *By adding Section 12.220 "Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission" to Title 12, Health and Social Services.*

## **Title 6. County Executive and the Executive Branch.**

### **Subtitle 3. Boards and Commissions.**

#### **SECTION 6.349. ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMISSION.**

THERE IS AN ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMISSION IN HOWARD COUNTY. ITS MEMBERSHIP, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES ARE SET FORTH IN SECTION 12.220 "ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMISSION" OF TITLE 12, "HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES," OF THIS CODE.

## **Title 12. Health and Social Services.**

### **Subtitle 2. Human Rights.**

#### **SECTION 12.220. ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMISSION; GENERAL PROVISIONS; PURPOSE; MEMBERSHIP; METHOD OF APPOINTMENT; STAFFING; MEETINGS; DUTIES; ANNUAL REPORT.**

(A) *GENERAL PROVISIONS.* GENERAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO THE COMMISSION ARE SET FORTH IN SUBTITLE 3, "BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS," OF TITLE 6, "COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH" OF THIS CODE.

(B) *PURPOSE.* THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO ADVANCE THE VALUES OF DIVERSITY AND CIVILITY, AND TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH COUNTY AGENCIES, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER INTERESTED COMMUNITY GROUPS TO FACILITATE AN ENVIRONMENT OF INCLUSION, COMMUNICATION, UNDERSTANDING, AND RESPECT THROUGH THE COUNTY AS A WHOLE AND WITHIN THE DIVERSE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES.

(C) *NUMBER OF MEMBERS.* THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF A MINIMUM OF 17 MEMBERS AND A MAXIMUM OF 25 MEMBERS.

(D) *MEMBERSHIP.* THE COMMISSION SHALL BE COMPRISED OF:

(1) THE FOLLOWING EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

(i) THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM OR THE

1 SUPERINTENDENT’S DESIGNEE;  
2 (II) THE PRESIDENT OF HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE OR THE PRESIDENT’S DESIGNEE;  
3 (III) THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OR THE PRESIDENT’S DESIGNEE; AND  
4 (IV) THE CHAIR OF THE HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM OR THE CHAIR’S DESIGNEE;  
5 AND  
6 (2) THE FOLLOWING APPOINTED MEMBERS:  
7 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION;  
8 (II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM LUMINUS, WHO DOES NOT NEED TO BE A COUNTY  
9 RESIDENT;  
10 (III) AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY;  
11 (IV) AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER COMMUNITY;  
12 (V) AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD, EDUCATION, OR  
13 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRY;  
14 (VI) AT LEAST THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS NONPROFITS THAT SERVE THE  
15 ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY;  
16 (VII) AT LEAST THREE HOWARD COUNTY RESIDENTS FROM THE ASIAN AMERICAN AND  
17 PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY;  
18 (VIII) AT LEAST ONE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE WHO SHALL SERVE A TERM  
19 THAT RUNS FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30; AND  
20 (IX) AT LEAST ONE STUDENT WHO RESIDES IN HOWARD COUNTY AND WHO ATTENDS A  
21 COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, OR TRADE SCHOOL WHO SHALL SERVE A TERM THAT RUNS FROM  
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23 (E) *METHOD OF APPOINTMENT.* EACH APPOINTED MEMBER SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY  
24 EXECUTIVE AND CONFIRMED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.  
25 (F) *EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND OTHER STAFF.* THE ADMINISTRATOR OR THE ADMINISTRATOR'S  
26 DESIGNEE SHALL SERVE AS THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION AND SHALL ATTEND  
27 ALL MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION AND, IN ADDITION TO THE DUTIES SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBTITLE,  
28 SHALL PERFORM DUTIES AS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMMISSION. THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE MAY  
29 ALSO DESIGNATE A COUNTY EMPLOYEE TO SERVE AS A LIAISON TO THE COMMISSION.  
30 (G) *MEETINGS.* THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST QUARTERLY.

1 (H) *DUTIES*. THE COMMISSION SHALL:

- 2 (1) ORGANIZE, EDUCATE, AND MOBILIZE THE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER  
3 COMMUNITY THROUGH COALITION BUILDING, AND COORDINATION WITH INDIVIDUALS,  
4 GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND BUSINESSES;
- 5 (2) WORK WITH HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICES, AND OTHER  
6 PUBLIC SERVING ENTITIES TO IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICES TO INCLUDE AND AFFIRM MEMBERS  
7 OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY;
- 8 (3) ADVISE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL ON POLICY AND PROGRAMS THAT  
9 SUPPORT ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN HEALTH, SAFETY, BUSINESS,  
10 EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT;
- 11 (4) ADVISE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL ON POLICY AND PROGRAMS  
12 IMPACTING HOWARD COUNTY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO INTERCULTURAL  
13 EDUCATION, INCLUSION, BELONGING, GOVERNMENT OUTREACH, AND ACCESS;
- 14 (5) ADVISE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL ON POLICY AND PROGRAMS TO  
15 IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR UNDERSERVED AND AT-RISK SEGMENTS OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN  
16 AND PACIFIC ISLANDER POPULATION, INCLUDING BILINGUAL, NON-NATIVE ENGLISH, AND  
17 NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS, YOUTH, SENIORS, IMMIGRANTS, AND NEW AMERICANS; AND
- 18 (6) SUPPORT, PLAN AND EXECUTE PROGRAMS, EVENTS, AND INITIATIVES TO CELEBRATE AND  
19 AFFIRM THE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY.

20 (I) *ANNUAL REPORT*. ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 28 OF EACH YEAR, THE COMMISSION SHALL  
21 SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT WHICH SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 22.1000  
22 OF THIS CODE TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ON ITS ACTIVITIES DURING  
23 THE PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR. THE REPORT MAY INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ANY MATTER  
24 RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

25  
26 **Section ~~[[12.220]]12.221. - Separability.~~**

27 The provisions of this subtitle are separable; and if any provision, sentence, clause, section,  
28 subsection or part thereof is held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional or inapplicable to any person  
29 or circumstance, the illegality, invalidity, unconstitutionality or inapplicability shall not affect  
30 nor impair any of the remainder of the subtitle or its application to other persons or

1 circumstances.

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3 ***Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that,  
4 *to establish the stagger of terms of the initial appointees required by Section 12.220(d)(2) of this*  
5 *Act to the Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission, at least 3 appointees shall have a*  
6 *term of 1 year, at least 4 appointees shall have a term of 2 years, and at least 4 appointees shall*  
7 *have a term of 3 years, as provided in the Resolutions that confirm the appointments.*

8  
9 ***Section 3. And Be It Further Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that  
10 *this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.*

**Amendment 1 to Council Bill No. 72-2022**

**BY: The Chairperson at the request  
of the County Executive**

**Legislative Day 15  
Date: October 31, 2022**

**Amendment No. 1**

*(This amendment adds safety as an area that the Commission will provide advice.)*

- 1 On page 4, in line 9, after "HEALTH," insert "SAFETY".

**I certify this is a true copy of**  
Am 1 to CB 72-2022  
**passed on** Oct 31, 2022  
Michelle Sherry  
**Council Administrator**



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATION  
9820 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 237 ■ Columbia, Maryland 21046 ■ 410-313-6430  
Lonnie R. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer Voice/Relay

Yolanda F. Sonnier, Administrator, Office of Human Rights & Equity  
ysonnier@howardcountymd.gov

FAX 410-313-6468

**Subject:** Written Testimony regarding the creation of the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Commission

**To:** Lonnie R. Robbins,  
Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Yolanda F. Sonnier, Administrator *YS*  
Office of Human Rights and Equity

**Date:** September 20, 2022

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The Office of Human Rights and Equity (OHRE) is in support of the creation of the Asian American Pacific Islander Commission which will be contained in the Howard County Code, Section 12.220.

In February 2021, County Executive Ball created the AAPI Workgroup with a mission of expanding on existing relationship and exploring ways to improve communication with the Asian American Pacific Islander community to ensure that every resident is aware that Howard County Government strives to treat every person fairly and equally.

The workgroup was fortunate to have dedicated community members who examined issues relating to Business and Economic Development, Health and Wellness, Government Access and Community Engagement for the AAPI community during the eighteen (18) months the workgroup was active. The workgroup issued its final report in July 2022 providing four (4) recommendations to the County Executive. One of the recommendations was to establish the workgroup as a permanent commission in Howard County Government.

Establishing this body as a commission will ensure there is consistent representation to advance opportunities for Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals and families in Howard County and work in partnership with County leadership, departments and the community at large to reduce the systemic inequities affecting AAPI residents.

In Howard County, where we are proud of our diversity, we must continue to strive to ensure all our residents are included, have access to services, feel welcomed and have equitable opportunities. The establishment of this commission will not only ensure representation, services and education to the AAPI community but will make great strides towards improving our entire county.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> year of this Commission will probably be setting priorities, examining continuing community needs and establishing the plan for outreach, events, trainings and other programming. Any expenses of the commission in FY23 will be covered by OHRE's budget.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email, [ysonnier@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ysonnier@howardcountymd.gov) or by phone at 410-313-6430.



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Introduced and read first time Oct 3, 2022. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order

Michelle Harrod  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

By order

Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 and Passed \_\_\_\_\_, Passed with amendments \_\_\_\_\_, Failed \_\_\_\_\_.

By order

Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 at \_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

By order

Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Calvin Ball, County Executive

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31       *Section 12.221.*

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4                   **Title 6. County Executive and the Executive Branch.**

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13                   **Title 12. Health and Social Services.**

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16       **SECTION 12.220. ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMISSION; GENERAL**  
17       **PROVISIONS; PURPOSE; MEMBERSHIP; METHOD OF APPOINTMENT; STAFFING; MEETINGS;**  
18       **DUTIES; ANNUAL REPORT.**

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7 *have a term of 3 years, as provided in the Resolutions that confirm the appointments.*

8  
9 ***Section 3. And Be It Further Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that  
10 *this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.*

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on Nov 9, 2022.

Michelle Harrod  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council