

## SUBTITLE 7. - VETERANS

### Sec. 6.700. - Commission for Veterans and Military Families.

- (a) *General provisions.* General provisions applicable to the Commission for Veterans and Military Families are set forth in subtitle 3, "Boards and Commissions," of this title.
- (b) *Definitions.* For purposes of this subtitle:
- (1) *Military family* shall include a person who is:
    - (i) A veteran, active duty member, or member of a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces; or
    - (ii) A relative of a veteran, active duty personnel, or member of a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces.
  - (2) *United States Armed Forces* shall mean the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard.
  - (3) *Veteran* shall mean:
    - (i) A person who served on full time active duty in the United States Armed Forces, other than active duty for training, and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable; or
    - (ii) A person who was disabled from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while performing active duty for training or inactive duty training; or
    - (iii) A person who served full time as a commissioned corps member of the Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- (c) *Number of members; method of appointment.* The Commission shall consist of 13 members who shall be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by resolution of the County Council.
- (d) *Composition of membership.* Of the 13 members:
- (1) Nine shall be veterans, one or more of whom shall have a service-connected disability and at least three of whom shall be members of at least one veterans' organization including, without limitation:
    - (i) Veterans of Foreign Wars;
    - (ii) American Legion;
    - (iii) AMVETS;
    - (iv) Disabled American Veterans;
    - (v) Military Order of the Purple Heart;
    - (vi) Jewish War Veterans;
    - (vii) Vietnam Veterans of America;
    - (viii) Korean War Veterans Association;
    - (ix) United Female Veterans of America or Another Women's Veterans Organization;
    - (x) Catholic War Veterans;
    - (xi) Women's Army Air Corps Association;
    - (xii) Military Officers Association of America;
    - (xiii) A local chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War;

- (xiv) Polish Legion of American Veterans;
  - (xv) Marine Corps League;
  - (xvi) Retired Enlisted Association;
  - (xvii) The National Association for Black Veterans;
  - (xviii) An Organization of Veteran Commissioned Corps Member of the Public Health Service;  
or
  - (xix) An Organization of Veteran Commissioned Corps Member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- (2) Two shall be immediate family members of either:
    - (i) A veteran; or
    - (ii) A person engaged in active-duty service or a member of a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces at the time of appointment; and
  - (3) Two members shall work or volunteer for an organization that serves veterans or military families.
- (e) *Executive Secretary.* The County Executive shall designate a county employee to serve as Executive Secretary to the Commission and attend all meetings.
  - (f) *Meetings.* The Commission shall meet at least quarterly.
- (C.B. 3, 2011, § 1)

Sec. 6.701. - General powers and duties of the Commission for Veterans and Military Families.

*In general.* Commission for Veterans and Military Families may:

- (1) Establish a forum exclusively relating to the issues of Howard County residents who served or are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and military families;
- (2) Maintain communication between government agencies, businesses, educational institutions, veterans, and military families in the County, with the intent that veterans' issues will be addressed in the most effective and efficient manner;
- (3) Provide assistance, guidance, and information to government agencies, businesses, and educational institutions to ensure adequate consideration of veterans and their history of service in education, employment, training, and public programs;
- (4) Research, assemble, analyze, and disseminate information and educational materials relating to activities and programs that will assist in meeting the needs of veterans and their families;
- (5) Identify and maintain a list of veterans' organizations as a resource to the Commission;
- (6) Institute and conduct educational and other programs, meetings, and conferences to promote the rights of and opportunities for veterans and military families;
- (7) Advise the Executive and the Council on the status of programs and services in the State and County related to the needs of veterans and military families; and
- (8) Assist in planning appropriate public acknowledgement of the contributions made by veterans and military families and assist in planning commemoration activities recognizing contributions made by veterans and military families.

(C.B. 3, 2011, § 1)

Sec. 6.702. - Annual report.

On or before January 31 of each year, the Commission shall submit an annual report to the County Council and the County Executive on its activities during the previous year. The report shall include recommendations, if any, for changes or improvements to the Commission.

(C.B. 3, 2011, § 1)