

HOUSE BILL 1156

O1

EMERGENCY BILL

1lr2795
CF SB 807

By: **Delegate Metzgar**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2021

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Men and Fatherhood**
3 **(Fatherhood Protection Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on Men and Fatherhood in the
5 Department of Human Services; providing for the composition of the Commission;
6 authorizing the secretaries of certain departments to serve as ex officio nonvoting
7 members; providing for the terms of members of the Commission; providing that a
8 majority of the members serving on the Commission is a quorum; requiring the
9 Commission to elect annually a chair and vice chair; requiring the Commission to
10 meet a certain amount of times per year; providing that a member who fails to attend
11 a certain percentage of regularly scheduled meetings in a certain time period shall
12 be considered to have resigned; prohibiting a member of the Commission from
13 receiving certain compensation, but authorizing reimbursement of certain expenses;
14 requiring the Secretary of Human Services to appoint an Executive Director of the
15 Commission; providing that the Executive Director is entitled to compensation in
16 accordance with the State budget and reimbursement of certain expenses;
17 establishing the duties of the Commission; authorizing the Commission to take
18 certain actions; prohibiting the Commission from adopting regulations; requiring the
19 Commission to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the
20 General Assembly on or before a certain date each year; defining a certain term;
21 making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the Commission
22 on Men and Fatherhood.

23 BY adding to

24 Article – Human Services

25 Section 2–601 through 2–606 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 6. Commission
26 on Men and Fatherhood”

27 Annotated Code of Maryland

28 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

29 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

2 **Article – Human Services**

3 **SUBTITLE 6. COMMISSION ON MEN AND FATHERHOOD.**

4 **2–601.**

5 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, “COMMISSION” MEANS THE COMMISSION ON MEN AND**
6 **FATHERHOOD.**

7 **2–602.**

8 **THERE IS A COMMISSION ON MEN AND FATHERHOOD IN THE DEPARTMENT.**

9 **2–603.**

10 **(A) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF 25 MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE**
11 **GOVERNOR WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE.**

12 **(B) OF THE 25 MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION:**

13 **(1) 12 SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM AMONG APPLICANTS WHO HAVE**
14 **BEEN NOMINATED AND RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT BY ORGANIZATIONS**
15 **LOCATED IN THE STATE WHOSE INTERESTS RELATE TO THE STATUS OF MEN; AND**

16 **(2) 13 SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM AMONG APPLICANTS APPLYING**
17 **ON THEIR OWN BEHALF.**

18 **(C) IN ADDITION TO THE MEMBERS APPOINTED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF**
19 **THIS SECTION, THE SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, OR THEIR**
20 **DESIGNEES, MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMISSION AS EX OFFICIO NONVOTING**
21 **MEMBERS.**

22 **(D) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS UNDER THIS**
23 **SECTION, THE GOVERNOR SHALL ENSURE GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY AMONG THE**
24 **MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION.**

25 **(E) (1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER IS 4 YEARS.**

26 **(2) A MEMBER MAY NOT SERVE FOR MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE**
27 **TERMS.**

28 **(3) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL**

1 A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

2 (4) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SHALL
3 SERVE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM OR UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED
4 AND QUALIFIES.

5 (F) A MEMBER WHO FAILS TO ATTEND AT LEAST 50% OF THE REGULARLY
6 SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION DURING ANY 12-MONTH PERIOD
7 SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE RESIGNED.

8 (G) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING SHALL
9 CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.

10 (H) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE
11 COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE THE TIMES, PLACES, AND FREQUENCY OF ITS
12 MEETINGS.

13 (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST SIX TIMES EACH YEAR.

14 (I) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:

15 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE
16 COMMISSION; BUT

17 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
18 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

19 2-604.

20 (A) THE COMMISSION ANNUALLY SHALL ELECT THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR
21 OF THE COMMISSION.

22 (B) THE COMMISSION MAY APPOINT ANY OFFICERS THAT IT CONSIDERS
23 NECESSARY.

24 2-605.

25 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
26 COMMISSION.

27 (B) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL BE A MERIT EMPLOYEE OF THE
28 DEPARTMENT.

1 **(C) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS ENTITLED TO:**

2 **(1) COMPENSATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET; AND**

3 **(2) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE**
4 **TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

5 **2-606.**

6 **(A) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

7 **(I) STUDY AND REVIEW THE STATUS OF MEN IN THE STATE;**

8 **(II) STRENGTHEN HOME LIFE BY DIRECTING ATTENTION TO**
9 **CRITICAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING MEN AS HUSBANDS, FATHERS, HOMEMAKERS,**
10 **AND WORKERS;**

11 **(III) RECOMMEND METHODS OF OVERCOMING DISCRIMINATION**
12 **AGAINST MEN IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT AND IN FAMILY LAW DISPUTES;**

13 **(IV) ENCOURAGE MEN TO BECOME CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC**
14 **OFFICE;**

15 **(V) PROMOTE MORE EFFECTIVE METHODS FOR ENABLING MEN**
16 **TO DEVELOP SKILLS, CONTINUE EDUCATION, AND BE RETRAINED;**

17 **(VI) SECURE APPROPRIATE RECOGNITION OF MEN'S**
18 **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE;**

19 **(VII) WORK TO DEVELOP HEALTHY ATTITUDES WITHIN THE**
20 **FRAMEWORK OF THE COMMISSION'S RESPONSIBILITIES; AND**

21 **(VIII) INFORM THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF**
22 **GOVERNMENT ON ISSUES CONCERNING MEN, INCLUDING OFFERING TESTIMONY ON**
23 **THE ISSUES SPECIFIED IN THIS PARAGRAPH BEFORE LEGISLATIVE AND**
24 **ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES.**

25 **(2) THE COMMISSION MAY:**

26 **(I) ACT AS A CLEARINGHOUSE FOR ACTIVITIES TO AVOID**
27 **DUPLICATION OF EFFORT; AND**

28 **(II) DEVELOP SURVEYS AND APPOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

1 IN FIELDS INCLUDING EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES, LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT,
2 LAW ENFORCEMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY, LEGAL RIGHTS, FAMILY RELATIONS,
3 HUMAN RELATIONS, AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES.

4 (B) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE COMMISSION SHALL
5 SUBMIT A REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR
6 AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE
7 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION.

8 (C) THE COMMISSION MAY NOT ADOPT REGULATIONS.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
10 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
11 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
12 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
13 enacted.