

# HOUSE BILL 55

P1

(PRE-FILED)

4r1042  
CF SB 88

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By: **Delegate Pruski**

Requested: October 18, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Commission on Veterans and Military Families**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Commission on Veterans and Military  
4 Families to study developing and implementing a strategic plan to make Maryland  
5 the best state for veterans and military families; and generally relating to the  
6 Maryland Commission on Veterans and Military Families.

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
8 That:

9 (a) There is a Commission on Veterans and Military Families.

10 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

11 (1) the following members, appointed by the President of the Senate:

12 (i) a member of the Senate of Maryland who is also a member of the  
13 Maryland Senate Veterans Caucus;

14 (ii) a former member of the Senate of Maryland who is also a former  
15 member of the Maryland Senate Veterans Caucus; and

16 (iii) a representative of an organization that advocates on behalf of  
17 veterans and military families;

18 (2) the following members, appointed by the Speaker of the House:

19 (i) a member of the House of Delegates who is also a member of the  
20 Maryland House Veterans Caucus;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) a former member of the House of Delegates who is also a former  
2 member of the Maryland House Veterans Caucus; and

3 (iii) a representative of an organization that advocates on behalf of  
4 veterans and military families;

5 (3) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary's designee;

6 (4) the Adjutant General, or the Adjutant General's designee;

7 (5) the chair of the Maryland Veterans Commission, or the chair's  
8 designee;

9 (6) the chair of the Maryland Veterans' Home Commission, or the chair's  
10 designee;

11 (7) the chair of the Maryland College Collaboration for Student Veterans  
12 Commission, or the chair's designee; and

13 (8) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

14 (i) a representative of an organization that advocates on behalf of  
15 woman veterans; and

16 (ii) a representative of the reserve component of any branch of the  
17 armed forces of the United States, not including the National Guard.

18 (c) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary's designee, shall serve as  
19 chair of the Commission.

20 (d) The Department of Veterans Affairs shall provide staff for the Commission.

21 (e) A member of the Commission:

22 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

23 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
24 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

25 (f) The Commission shall:

26 (1) study and make recommendations for developing and implementing a  
27 statewide strategic plan to make Maryland the best state for veterans and military families,  
28 including legislative and budgetary recommendations; and

1           (2)    identify key performance indicators that can be compared to those of  
2 other states in order to assess the quality of life for veterans and military families in  
3 Maryland relative to other states.

4           (g)    On or before December 1, 2024, the Commission shall report its findings and  
5 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
6 Government Article, the General Assembly.

7           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
8 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June  
9 30, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be  
10 abrogated and of no further force and effect.