

Chapter 423

(House Bill 167)

AN ACT concerning

**Commission to Establish a Maryland Women Veterans Memorial**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission to Establish a Maryland Women Veterans Memorial to study establishing a memorial dedicated to Maryland women veterans; and generally relating to the Commission to Establish a Maryland Women Veterans Memorial.

Preamble

WHEREAS, The women of Maryland have served as members of this nation’s armed forces in every conflict in defense of the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Women veterans of Maryland have served in every area of armed forces assignment, including the bearing of arms; and

WHEREAS, The service provided by women veterans of Maryland is worthy of a memorialization that properly honors those who willingly place themselves in danger on behalf of those whom that service protects; and

WHEREAS, There is no significant memorial established within Maryland that honors the service of the women veterans of Maryland; now, therefore,

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

- (a) There is a Commission to Establish a Maryland Women Veterans Memorial.
- (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

~~(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland who serves on the Maryland General Assembly’s Veteran’s Caucus, appointed by the President of the Senate;~~

~~(2) one member of the House of Delegates who serves on the Maryland General Assembly’s Veteran’s Caucus, appointed by the Speaker of the House;~~

~~(3)~~ (1) the Secretary of ~~Veteran’s~~ Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary’s designee;

~~(4)~~ (2) the Secretary of General Services, or the Secretary’s designee; ~~and~~

~~(5) the following members, appointed by the Governor on or before September 1, 2022;~~

~~(i)~~ (3) two representatives of the Maryland Veterans Commission, designated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

~~(ii) four representatives of women's veterans organizations.~~

(4) four representatives of veteran services organizations who are women, designated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

(5) one representative of the Maryland National Guard, designated by the Adjutant General of Maryland.

(c) The members of the Commission shall elect a chair from among the Commission's members.

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

(e) A member of the Commission:

(1) may not receive compensation; but

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

(f) The Commission shall provide recommendations for the funding, design, construction, and placement of an appropriate memorial dedicated to Maryland women veterans.

(g) On or before February 1, 2023, the Commission shall submit a preliminary report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

(h) On or before September 30, 2023, the Commission shall submit a final report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2024, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

**Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2022.**