

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2020, Legislative Day No. 30

Bill No. 97-20

Introduced by Ms. Pickard, Chair  
(by request of the County Executive)

and by Mr. Pruski

By the County Council, November 2, 2020

Introduced and first read on November 2, 2020  
Public Hearing set for and held on December 7, 2020  
Public Hearing on AMENDED bill set for and held on December 21, 2020  
Bill Expires on February 5, 2021

By Order: JoAnne Gray, Administrative Officer

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning: Boards, Commissions, and Similar Bodies – Veterans  
2 Affairs Commission

3  
4 FOR the purpose of clarifying the name of the Veterans Affairs Commission; establishing  
5 the purpose of the Veterans Affairs Commission; modifying the composition, terms of  
6 members, and meeting procedures of the Veterans Affairs Commission; amending the  
7 powers and duties of the Veterans Affairs Commission; modifying the due date of the  
8 annual report; making technical corrections; and generally relating to boards,  
9 commissions, and similar bodies.

10  
11 BY renumbering: §§ ~~43-12A-102~~ through ~~43-12A-109~~, respectively, to be §§ ~~43-12A-103~~  
12 through ~~43-12A-110~~, respectively  
13 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)

14  
15 BY adding: § ~~3-12A-102~~  
16 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)

17  
18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments: §§ ~~3-12A-101~~; ~~43-12A-103~~; ~~3-12A-104~~;  
19 ~~3-12A-105~~; ~~3-12A-106~~; ~~3-12A-107~~; ~~3-12A-109~~; and ~~3-12A-110~~  
20 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate new matter added to existing law.  
[[Brackets]] indicate matter deleted from existing law.  
Captions and taglines in **bold** in this bill are catchwords and are not law.  
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.  
~~Strikeover~~ indicates matter stricken from bill by amendment.

1 SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland,*  
2 That §§ 43-12A-102 through 43-12A-109, respectively, of the Anne Arundel County Code  
3 (2005, as amended) are hereby renumbered to be §§ 43-12A-103 through 43-12A-110,  
4 respectively.

5  
6 SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted,* That Section(s) of the Anne Arundel County  
7 Code (2005, as amended) read as follows:

8  
9 **ARTICLE 3. BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND SIMILAR BODIES**

10  
11 **TITLE 12A. VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

12  
13 **3-12A-101. Established.**

14  
15 There is a Veterans Affairs Commission TO BE KNOWN AS THE “ANNE ARUNDEL  
16 COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION”.

17  
18 **3-12A-102. Purpose.**

19  
20 THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO ADVOCATE AND HELP TO ENHANCE THE  
21 QUALITY OF LIFE FOR VETERANS OF MILITARY SERVICE AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO LIVE  
22 OR WORK WITHIN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BY ADVISING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND  
23 THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNMENT  
24 POLICIES, PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FOR VETERANS  
25 AND THEIR FAMILIES.

26  
27 **[[3-12A-102.]] 3-12A-103. Composition.**

28  
29 (A) **Voting members.** The Commission consists of 13 VOTING members APPOINTED  
30 BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, each of whom has separated from the military service under  
31 honorable conditions. THE COMMISSION SHALL ENDEAVOR TO BE A DIVERSE BODY OF  
32 MEMBERS FROM ALL BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY. Of the 13 members:

33  
34 (1) [[one]] TWO shall be [[a]] qualified [[veteran]] VETERANS, pursuant to the  
35 guidelines of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

36  
37 (2) one shall be [[a resident of the County who owns or operates]] AN OWNER OR  
38 OPERATOR OF a local business or [[is]] an employee of a local business, [[and is]] selected  
39 in consultation with the Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce;

40  
41 (3) one shall be [[a County resident who is]] an educator or educational  
42 administrator [[and is]] selected in consultation with the Anne Arundel Community  
43 College;

44  
45 (4) [[one shall be a County resident who is a veteran of any branch of the military  
46 service that served at any time during the Cold War period - September 2, 1945 to  
47 December 26, 1991; and

1 (5)] nine shall be [[County residents,]] SELECTED BY THE VOTING MEMBERS OF  
2 THE COMMISSION from any of the following organizations and [[selected]] in consultation  
3 with that organization:

- 4
- 5 (i) the Veterans of Foreign Wars;
- 6
- 7 (ii) the American Legion;
- 8
- 9 (iii) AMVETS;
- 10
- 11 (iv) Disabled American Veterans;
- 12
- 13 (v) Military Order of the Purple Heart;
- 14
- 15 (vi) Fleet Reserve Association;
- 16
- 17 (vii) Vietnam Veterans of America;
- 18
- 19 (viii) Korean War Veterans Association; [[and]]
- 20
- 21 (ix) a women's veterans organization~~[[.]]~~;
- 22
- 23 (X) MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA;
- 24
- 25 (XI) NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS;
- 26
- 27 (XII) NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA;
- 28
- 29 (XIII) RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION;
- 30
- 31 (XIV) IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA;
- 32
- 33 (XV) STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA;
- 34
- 35 (XVI) WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT; ~~AND~~
- 36
- 37 (XVII) PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA; AND
- 38
- 39 (XVIII) OTHER SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT VETERANS AND THEIR  
40 FAMILIES.

41

42 (B) **Non-voting members.** THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE FOUR NON-VOTING  
43 MEMBERS WHO SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY  
44 EXECUTIVE BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE VOTING MEMBERS.

45

46 (C) **Residency.** EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE A RESIDENT OF ANNE  
47 ARUNDEL COUNTY.

48

49 **[[3-12A-103.]] 3-12A-104. Term of members.**

50

51 (a) **Generally.** ~~[[A member serves until the County Executive's term ends.]]~~  
52 ~~MEMBERS SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE. THE INITIAL TERMS OF~~

1 NEWLY APPOINTED VOTING MEMBERS SHALL BE STAGGERED SO THAT FOUR MEMBERS  
2 SHALL SERVE INITIAL TERMS OF ONE YEAR, FOUR MEMBERS SHALL SERVE INITIAL TERMS  
3 OF TWO YEARS, AND FIVE MEMBERS SHALL SERVE INITIAL TERMS OF THREE YEARS. NON-  
4 VOTING MEMBERS, AND, AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THE INITIAL TERMS, VOTING  
5 MEMBERS SHALL SERVE THREE YEAR TERMS. A MEMBER WHOSE TERM HAS EXPIRED  
6 HOLDS OVER UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED. A MEMBER MAY SERVE UP TO THREE  
7 CONSECUTIVE FULL TERMS, AND, AFTER A ONE-YEAR LAPSE IN SERVICE, A MEMBER IS  
8 ELIGIBLE TO BE REAPPOINTED.

9  
10 (b) **Removal for cause.** [[A member whose term has expired holds over until a  
11 successor is appointed.]] A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MAY BE REMOVED BY THE  
12 COUNTY EXECUTIVE FOR CAUSE, INCLUDING ABSENCE FROM 25% OR MORE OF THE  
13 SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND HEARINGS OF THE COMMISSION DURING ANY 12-MONTH  
14 PERIOD.

15  
16 (c) **Vacancies.** The County Executive shall fill a vacancy for the remainder of an  
17 unexpired term of a member.

18  
19 **[[3-12A-104.]] 3-12A-105. Chair.**

20  
21 The Chair shall be [[the member of the Commission who is the qualified veteran  
22 selected]] APPOINTED by the County Executive FROM AMONG THE VOTING MEMBERS OF  
23 THE COMMISSION.

24  
25 **[[3-12A-105.]] 3-12A-106. Meetings and quorum.**

26  
27 (a) **Meetings.** The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chair, or at the request of  
28 [[seven]] A MAJORITY OF THE VOTING members, as frequently as required to perform its  
29 duties, but no less than [[four]] SIX times a year. ALL MEETINGS SHALL COMPLY WITH THE  
30 MARYLAND OPEN MEETINGS ACT AND THIS CODE.

31  
32 (b) **Quorum.** A quorum consists of a majority of the [[Commission]] VOTING  
33 members. An affirmative vote of a majority of those VOTING MEMBERS present at any  
34 meeting at which there is a quorum shall be sufficient for any action of the Commission.

35  
36 **[[3-12A-106.]] 3-12A-107. Rules and regulations.**

37  
38 The Commission shall adopt rules and regulations to govern [[its]] procedures FOR ITS  
39 MEETINGS [[and activities]].

40  
41 **[[3-12A-108.]] 3-12A-109. Powers and duties.**

42  
43 Among its powers and duties, the Commission [[shall]] MAY:

44  
45 (1) establish a forum for all [[Anne Arundel County]] veterans of [[military  
46 service]] THE COUNTY;

47  
48 (2) maintain coordinated communication with County and local governments,  
49 businesses, and veterans of the County; [[and]]

1 (3) provide assistance, guidance, and information to the business and academic  
2 communities of the County and various levels of government to ensure adequate  
3 consideration of veterans in employment, education, training and public programs[.];

4  
5 (4) REVIEW COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION THAT MAY IMPACT  
6 VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE  
7 LEGISLATION:

8  
9 (I) TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL; AND

10  
11 (II) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, TO THE STATE AND  
12 FEDERAL LEGISLATURES AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES;

13  
14 (5) ADVISE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ON THE COORDINATION OF SERVICES AMONG  
15 ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS, AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH  
16 PROVIDE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES; AND

17  
18 (6) IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SOURCES OF PRIVATE  
19 AND PUBLIC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO EXPAND OR IMPROVE SERVICES AND  
20 PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

21  
22 **[[3-12A-109.]] 3-12A-110. Reports.**

23  
24 On or before [[December]] JANUARY 31 of each year, the Commission shall submit a  
25 report to the County Executive and the County Council setting forth its accomplishments  
26 for the preceding year and its goals for the forthcoming year.

27  
28 SECTION 3. *And be it further enacted,* That this Ordinance shall take effect 45 days  
29 from the date it becomes law.

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED: December 7, 2020

READ AND PASSED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2020

By Order:



JoAnne Gray  
Administrative Officer

PRESENTED to the County Executive for his approval this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2020



JoAnne Gray  
Administrative Officer

APPROVED AND ENACTED this 29<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020



Steuart Pittman  
County Executive

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 12, 2021

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF  
BILL NO. 97-20. THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH IS RETAINED IN THE  
FILES OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.



JoAnne Gray  
Administrative Officer