



Gregory J. Swain, County Attorney

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Council Members, Anne Arundel County Council  
**From:** Christine B. Neiderer, Assistant County Attorney /s/  
**Date:** November 2, 2020  
**Subject:** Bill No. 97-20: Veterans Affairs Commission

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### Legislative Summary

This summary was prepared by the Anne Arundel County Office of Law for use by members of the Anne Arundel County Council during consideration of Bill No. 97-20, a bill that modifies provisions of the Code related to the Veterans Affairs Commission (“Commission”).

**Background.** The Commission was created in 2006, and is codified in Article 3, Subtitle 12A of the Code. The Commission is advisory to the executive branch of the County government. The changes included in this legislation were initiated at the request of the Commission members.

**Purpose.** The purpose of the Bill is to modify provisions of the Code related to the Veterans Affairs Commission.

### **Bill Provisions.**

#### **SECTION 1.**

§ 3-12A-101 is modified to add that the Veterans Affairs Commission is to be known as the Anne Arundel County Veterans Affairs Commission.

§ 3-12A-102 is new and provides for the purpose of the Commission.

§ 3-12A-103 modifies the composition of the Commission. Subsection (A) addresses the number and types of voting members appointed by the County Executive, and now includes language providing that the Commission shall endeavor to be a diverse body of members from all branches of the military. **Subsection (1)** increases the number of voting members who are qualified Veterans to two (2). **Subsections (2) and (3)** are modified to remove the reference to the County residency requirement because it is redundant of new paragraph § 3-12A-103(B). **Subsection (4)**

**Note:** This Legislative Summary provides a synopsis of the bill as introduced. It does not address subsequent amendments to the bill.

deletes the requirement that one of the voting members must be a veteran of any branch of the military service that served during the Cold War period. **Subsection (5)** expands the organizations, groups, and associations from which 9 of the 13 voting members may be selected.

§ **3-12A-103 (B)** adds four (4) non-voting members to the Commission appointed by County Executive based on the recommendation of the voting members.

§ **3-12A-103 (C)** provides that each member of the Commission must be a resident of the County.

§ **3-12A-104 (a)** is modified to provide that members will serve at the pleasure of the County Executive and staggers the initial terms of the voting members. Non-voting members, and, after the expiration of the initial terms, voting members, serve 3 year terms. Members may serve up to 3 consecutive full terms, and, after one-full year lapse in service, a member is eligible to be reappointed. **Subsection (b)** is changed to add removal for cause, which may occur if a member misses 25% or more of the scheduled meetings and hearings during a 12-month period. This is consistent with other appointed boards and commissions.

§ **3-12A-105** amends the language to allow the County Executive to select any one of the voting members to serve as Chair of the Commission.

§ **3-12A-106(a)** is amended to provide that the Commission may also meet at the call of a majority of the voting members and must meet no less than six times per year. Language was also added requiring that all meetings comply with the Maryland Open Meetings Act and the Code. **Subsection (b)** is modified so specify that a quorum consists of a majority of voting members.

§ **3-12A-107** is modified to clarify that rules and regulations adopted by the Commission will be related to its meetings.

§ **3-12A-109** is modified to clarify the powers and duties of the Commission. The language is changed to specify that the Commission may perform the powers and duties listed under this section, but is not required to do so. In addition, Paragraph **(I)** is changed to clarify that the Commission is to establish a forum for all Veterans of the County. Paragraphs **(4)(I)-(4)(II)** are added to provide that the Commission may review legislation and make recommendations: **(I)** to the County Executive and County Council; and **(II)** the State and Federal legislature and executive branches with the approval of the County Executive. Other changes are made to clarify that the Commission may advise the County Executive on the coordination of services provided to Veterans and their families and identify and recommend sources of private and public financial assistance available to improve and expand services or programs for Veterans and their families.

§ **3-12A-110** changes the submission due date of the Commission's report from December to January 31.

**SECTION 2.**

This Section provides that the bill will take effect 45 days from the date that it becomes law.

The Office of Law is available to answer any additional questions regarding Bill No. 97-20. Thank you.

cc: Honorable Steuart Pittman, County Executive  
Dr. Kai Boggess-de Bruin, PhD, Chief of Staff  
Matt Power, Chief Administrative Officer  
Peter Baron, Legislative Liaison  
Chris Trumbauer, Acting Budget Officer  
Kaley Schultze, Boards & Commissions Coordinator and Legislative Assistant