

HOUSE BILL 706

P1

0lr1727

By: **Delegates Qi, Cullison, Acevero, Fraser–Hidalgo, Attar, Atterbeary, Bagnall, Boyce, Cardin, Carr, Charkoudian, Clippinger, Crutchfield, Dumais, Ebersole, Feldmark, W. Fisher, Hettleman, Johnson, Kaiser, Lehman, J. Lewis, Lierman, Lopez, Love, Luedtke, McIntosh, Moon, Mosby, Palakovich Carr, Smith, Solomon, Stewart, Terrasa, Washington, Wells, Wilkins, and K. Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2020

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on LGBTQ Affairs – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on LGBTQ Affairs in the Governor’s Office
4 of Community Initiatives; providing for the appointment, qualifications, terms, and
5 removal of Commission members; requiring the Commission to elect annually a chair
6 and vice chair; requiring the Commission to meet under certain circumstances;
7 prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain compensation, but
8 authorizing reimbursement of certain expenses; authorizing the Commission to
9 appoint a director under certain circumstances; establishing that the director is a
10 special appointment; establishing the duties of the director and of the Commission;
11 authorizing the Commission to seek and accept certain money; establishing that
12 certain funds are not subject to certain reversion but are subject to certain audit;
13 defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Commission on LGBTQ Affairs.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – State Government
16 Section 9.5–101
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article – State Government
21 Section 9.5–501 through 9.5–508 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 5.
22 Commission on LGBTQ Affairs”
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – State Government

9.5–101.

(a) There is a Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives, as authorized under Executive Order 01.01.2007.25.

(b) The Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives shall include the following units:

(1) the Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism, under Subtitle 2 of this title;

(2) the Commission on Indian Affairs, under Subtitle 3 of this title;

(3) the Commission on African American History and Culture, under Subtitle 4 of this title; [and]

(4) THE COMMISSION ON LGBTQ AFFAIRS, UNDER SUBTITLE 5 OF THIS TITLE; AND

[(4)] (5) any other unit as authorized by law or executive order.

SUBTITLE 5. COMMISSION ON LGBTQ AFFAIRS.

9.5–501.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “COMMISSION” MEANS THE COMMISSION ON LGBTQ AFFAIRS.

(C) “LGBTQ” MEANS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER.

9.5–502.

THERE IS A COMMISSION ON LGBTQ AFFAIRS IN THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES.

9.5–503.

1 (A) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF 15 MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE
2 GOVERNOR WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE.

3 (B) THE MEMBERS SHALL:

4 (1) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, REFLECT THE GENDER, RACIAL,
5 ETHNIC, AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE;

6 (2) KNOW ABOUT ISSUES FACING LGBTQ COMMUNITIES AND BE
7 SENSITIVE TO THE PROBLEMS OF LGBTQ COMMUNITIES;

8 (3) BE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE'S LGBTQ COMMUNITIES
9 OR HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE SUCCESS OF LGBTQ COMMUNITIES; AND

10 (4) PROVIDE VALUE TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

11 (C) (1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER IS 4 YEARS.

12 (2) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL
13 A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

14 (3) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES
15 ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND
16 QUALIFIES.

17 (D) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A
18 MEMBER MAY BE REAPPOINTED.

19 (2) A MEMBER WHO HAS SERVED TWO CONSECUTIVE 4-YEAR TERMS
20 MAY NOT BE REAPPOINTED UNTIL AT LEAST 1 YEAR HAS ELAPSED AFTER THE END
21 OF THE PREVIOUS TERM.

22 (E) THE GOVERNOR MAY REMOVE A MEMBER FOR INCOMPETENCE OR
23 MISCONDUCT.

24 **9.5-504.**

25 THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT ANNUALLY A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FROM
26 AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

27 **9.5-505.**

(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS, OR THE GOVERNOR.

(B) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:

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

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

9.5-506.

(A) (1) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR, THE COMMISSION SHALL APPOINT A DIRECTOR.

(2) THE DIRECTOR MAY NOT BE A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION.

(3) THE DIRECTOR SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE COMMISSION, SUBJECT TO THE CONCURRENCE OF THE GOVERNOR.

(B) THE DIRECTOR IS A SPECIAL APPOINTMENT IN THE STATE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

(C) SUBJECT TO THE RULES AND POLICIES ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISION OF THE GOVERNOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 8, SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE DIRECTOR SHALL:

(1) ADMINISTER THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION; AND

(2) SUPERVISE THE APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF COMMISSION PERSONNEL.

9.5-507.

THE COMMISSION SHALL:

(1) ASSESS THE CHALLENGES FACING LGBTQ COMMUNITIES;

(2) COLLECT DATA ACROSS STATE AGENCIES ON:

(I) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LGBTQ-INCLUSIVE POLICIES;

1 AND

2 (II) COMPLAINTS ALLEGING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON
3 SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY;

4 (3) STUDY AND ESTABLISH BEST PRACTICES FOR INCLUSION OF
5 LGBTQ INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES;

6 (4) WORK WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO PASS LAWS THAT ARE
7 INCLUSIVE OF LGBTQ INDIVIDUALS; AND

8 (5) PUBLISH AN ANNUAL REPORT, AND ANY OTHER MATERIAL THE
9 COMMISSION CONSIDERS NECESSARY, THAT INCLUDES RECOMMENDATIONS ON
10 POLICIES FOR LGBTQ ADULTS AND YOUTH THAT WORK TO END DISCRIMINATORY
11 PRACTICES IN THE STATE.

12 9.5–508.

13 (A) (1) THE COMMISSION MAY SEEK MONEY FROM THE FEDERAL
14 GOVERNMENT, FOUNDATIONS, AND PRIVATE SOURCES IN ADDITION TO STATE
15 FINANCING.

16 (2) THE COMMISSION MAY ACCEPT GIFTS, GRANTS, DONATIONS,
17 BEQUESTS, OR ENDOWMENTS FOR ANY OF ITS PURPOSES.

18 (B) MONEY RECEIVED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION AND
19 INCOME AND FEES DERIVED FROM ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION ARE NOT
20 SUBJECT TO § 7–302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

21 (C) MONEY MAINTAINED UNDER THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO AUDIT BY
22 THE STATE, INCLUDING THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 2020.