

HOUSE BILL 1213

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EMERGENCY BILL

2lr2267

By: **Delegates Metzgar and McComas**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Human Services – Commission on Fatherhood**
3 **(Fatherhood Protection Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on Fatherhood in the Department of
5 Human Services to study and make recommendations relating to the status of
6 fatherhood in the State; and generally relating to the Commission on Fatherhood.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Human Services

9 Section 2–601 through 2–606 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 6. Commission
10 on Fatherhood”

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Human Services**

16 **SUBTITLE 6. COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD.**

17 **2–601.**

18 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, “COMMISSION” MEANS THE COMMISSION ON**
19 **FATHERHOOD.**

20 **2–602.**

21 **THERE IS A COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD IN THE DEPARTMENT.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **2-603.**

2 (A) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF 25 MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE
3 GOVERNOR WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE.

4 (B) (1) OF THE 25 MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION:

5 (I) 12 SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM AMONG APPLICANTS WHO
6 HAVE BEEN NOMINATED AND RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT BY
7 ORGANIZATIONS LOCATED IN THE STATE WHOSE MISSIONS INCLUDE A FOCUS ON
8 FATHERHOOD OR SUPPORTING FATHERS; AND

9 (II) 13 SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM AMONG MEMBERS OF THE
10 GENERAL PUBLIC APPLYING ON THEIR OWN BEHALF.

11 (2) IN SELECTING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC APPLYING ON THEIR
12 OWN BEHALF, THE GOVERNOR SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO APPLICANTS WHO HAVE
13 ADVOCATED, VOLUNTEERED, OR OTHERWISE WORKED TO PROMOTE FATHERS AND
14 FATHERHOOD FOR AT LEAST 18 MONTHS.

15 (3) IN SELECTING APPLICANTS, THE GOVERNOR SHALL, TO THE
16 EXTENT PRACTICABLE, NOMINATE MEMBERS WHOSE RESIDENCIES REFLECT THE
17 FULL GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.

18 (C) IN ADDITION TO THE MEMBERS APPOINTED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF
19 THIS SECTION, THE SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, OR THEIR
20 DESIGNEES, MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMISSION AS EX OFFICIO NONVOTING
21 MEMBERS.

22 (D) (1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER IS 4 YEARS.

23 (2) A MEMBER MAY NOT SERVE FOR MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE
24 TERMS.

25 (3) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL
26 A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

27 (4) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SHALL
28 SERVE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM OR UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED
29 AND QUALIFIES.

30 (E) A MEMBER WHO FAILS TO ATTEND AT LEAST 50% OF THE REGULARLY
31 SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION DURING ANY 12-MONTH PERIOD

1 SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE RESIGNED.

2 (F) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING SHALL
3 CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.

4 (G) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE
5 COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE THE TIMES, PLACES, AND FREQUENCY OF ITS
6 MEETINGS.

7 (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST SIX TIMES EACH YEAR.

8 (H) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:

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

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

13 2-604.

14 (A) THE COMMISSION ANNUALLY SHALL ELECT THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR
15 OF THE COMMISSION.

16 (B) THE COMMISSION MAY APPOINT ANY OFFICERS THAT IT CONSIDERS
17 NECESSARY.

18 2-605.

19 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
20 COMMISSION.

21 (B) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL BE A MERIT EMPLOYEE OF THE
22 DEPARTMENT.

23 (C) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS ENTITLED TO:

24 (1) COMPENSATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET; AND

25 (2) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE
26 TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

27 2-606.

1 **(A) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

2 **(I) STUDY AND REVIEW THE STATUS OF FATHERHOOD IN THE**
3 **STATE;**

4 **(II) STRENGTHEN HOME LIFE BY DIRECTING ATTENTION TO**
5 **CRITICAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING MEN AS HUSBANDS AND FATHERS;**

6 **(III) RECOMMEND METHODS OF OVERCOMING ATTITUDES**
7 **DENIGRATING FATHERHOOD;**

8 **(IV) RECOMMEND ALTERNATIVES TO FAMILY LAW OUTCOMES**
9 **THAT HARM THE ABILITY OF MEN TO OFFER LOVING SUPPORTIVE HOMES FOR THEIR**
10 **CHILDREN;**

11 **(V) HIGHLIGHT OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF FATHERS AND**
12 **THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE; AND**

13 **(VI) INFORM THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF**
14 **STATE GOVERNMENT ON CURRENT ISSUES THAT IMPACT FATHERS, INCLUDING BY**
15 **OFFERING TESTIMONY ON PROPOSED REGULATIONS AND LEGISLATION.**

16 **(2) THE COMMISSION MAY DEVELOP SURVEYS AND APPOINT**
17 **ADVISORY COMMITTEES IN FIELDS INCLUDING EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES,**
18 **LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, LAW ENFORCEMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY, LEGAL**
19 **RIGHTS, FAMILY RELATIONS, HUMAN RELATIONS, AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES.**

20 **(3) THE COMMISSION MAY NOT ADOPT REGULATIONS.**

21 **(B) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE COMMISSION SHALL**
22 **SUBMIT A REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR**
23 **AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE**
24 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
26 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
27 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
28 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
29 enacted.