

Action

MEMORANDUM

November 23, 2010

TO: County Council

FROM: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Analyst *A. Mihill*

SUBJECT: **Action:** Bill 52-10, Commission on Veterans Affairs - Membership

Bill 52-10, Commission on Veterans Affairs - Membership, sponsored by the Council President at the request of the County Executive, was introduced on October 26, 2010. A public hearing was held on November 23.

Bill 52-10 would alter the membership of the Commission on Veterans Affairs by adding the President of Montgomery College to the Commission. At the public hearing on November 23, Jerry Godwin, on behalf of the Commission on Veterans Affairs, testified in support of Bill 52-10. Mr. Godwin argued that Montgomery College serves a key role in helping veterans transition from military service into higher education, including programs such as Combat2College. As of the time this packet went to print, the Council had received no other correspondence. **Council staff recommends** approval of Bill 52-10.

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Bill No. 52-10
Concerning: Commission on Veterans
Affairs - Membership
Revised: 10/21/2010 Draft No. 1
Introduced: October 26, 2010
Expires: April 26, 2010
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: None
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President at the request of the County Executive

AN ACT to:

- (1) alter the membership of the Commission on Veterans Affairs; and
- (2) generally amend the law relating to the Commission.

By amending

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 24, Health and Sanitation
Section 24-61

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

27 delegation or an individual designated to represent the delegation
28 to be a non-voting member of the Commission.

29 (6) The term of each member is 3 years.

30 (7) The Executive must designate a chair and a vice-chair from
31 among the Commission's members.

32 (8) After an appointment to fill a vacancy before a term expires, the
33 successor serves the rest of the unexpired term.

34 * * *

35 *Approved:*

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Nancy Floreen, President, County Council Date

37 *Approved:*

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Isiah Leggett, County Executive Date

39 *This is a correct copy of Council action.*

40

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council Date

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Bill 52-10, Commission on Veterans Affairs - Membership

DESCRIPTION: This legislation adds a representative from Montgomery College to serve as a member on the Commission of Veterans Affairs.

PROBLEM: The Commission would benefit from the expertise of College staff working with veterans who are transition to higher education. The Executive currently lacks the authority to appoint such a representative.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: To assist the Commission in its duty to promote the rights and opportunities for veterans and to advise the Executive and the Council on the status of programs and services related to the needs of veterans.

FISCAL IMPACT: To be requested.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: To be requested.

EVALUATION: To be requested.

EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE: N/A

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: Betsy Tolbert Luecking, Disability Policy Specialist, 240-777-1256

APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES: N/A

PENALTIES: N/A



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

October 22, 2010

TO: Nancy Floreen, President, County Council

FROM: Isiah Leggett 
County Executive

SUBJECT: Bill to add a representative from Montgomery College to serve as a member of the Commission on Veterans Affairs

I am attaching for the Council's consideration a Bill to add a representative from Montgomery College as a member to the Commission on Veterans Affairs. The bill would increase the total membership of the Commission to 17 members. Currently there are 15 voting members and one non-voting member.

Adding a representative from Montgomery College would bring expertise on veterans' issues relating to higher education, which would improve the Commission's ability to carry out its responsibilities which include: (1) assembling, analyzing, and disseminating information and educational materials relating to activities and programs that will assist in meeting the needs of veterans and their families; (2) conducting educational programs to promote the rights of, and opportunities for, veterans; (3) advising the Executive and Council on the status of programs and services in the State and county relating to the needs of veterans and their families; and (4) assisting in planning appropriate public acknowledgement of the contributions made by veterans.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed bill.

IL: rm

Attachments



OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Joseph F. Beach
Director

MEMORANDUM

November 5, 2010

TO: Nancy Floreen, President, County Council

FROM: Joseph F. Beach, Director

SUBJECT: Council Bill 52-10, Alter Membership of the Commission on Veterans Affairs

The purpose of this memorandum is to transmit a fiscal and economic impact statement to the Council on the Subject legislation.

LEGISLATION SUMMARY

This legislation would alter the membership of the Commission on Veterans Affairs to add the President of Montgomery College or the President's designee. After the amendment, the Commission will have sixteen (16) voting members, and one non-voting member.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC SUMMARY

There would be no fiscal or economic impact to this legislation because it adds one, ex-officio member to the Commission on Veterans Affairs, which would require no additional resources.

The following contributed to and concurred with this analysis: Betsy Luecking, Staff Liaison, Commission on Veterans Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, and Pooja Bharadwaja, Office of Management and Budget.

JFB:pb

- c: Kathleen Boucher, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
- Dee Gonzalez, Offices of the County Executive
- Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
- Beryl Feinberg, Office of Management and Budget
- John Cuff, Office of Management and Budget
- Pooja Bharadwaja, Office of Management and Budget

Office of the Director



Commission on Veterans Affairs



Bill 52-10, Commission on Veterans Affairs—Membership *Testimony of Jerry Godwin, Vice-Chair, Commission on Veterans Affairs*

Montgomery County Council **Public Hearing** **November 23, 2010**

Good afternoon, Council President Floreen and members of the County Council. I am Jerry Godwin, Vice-Chair of the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs and I am here today to speak in support of Bill 52-10, which adds the President of Montgomery College, or the President's designee, to the Commission as an ex officio member.

I want to begin by thanking the Council for the extraordinary support you have given to efforts in support of all veterans living in our community. Most notably, in the past year you enacted landmark legislation that establishes a County hiring preference for veterans. That legislation will change the lives of many veterans for years to come.

The Commission is charged with advising the Executive and the Council on the status of programs and services that relate to the needs of veterans and their families. One of the critical areas of need is connecting veterans to educational opportunities.

Montgomery College serves a key role in helping veterans transition from military service into higher education. This semester over 600 veterans and active service members are enrolled at the College. We know that education can be a critical element in the successful reentry of veterans to civilian life.

Many combat veterans return with complex medical and mental health needs that can impede their educational success. Beginning in 2008 the College launched an innovative program called Combat2College ("C2C"). Working collaboratively with Walter Reed, the National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, the National Rehabilitation Hospital, and the Veteran's Administration Medical Center, the College program helps veterans identify and tap into assets that they bring from their military training. Through C2C the College has played a central role in fostering collaboration among a wide range of public and private organizations whose goal is to provide the best and most comprehensive services and programs for student veterans.

From an economic development perspective, veterans attending Montgomery College provide an economic boost to the county. The College receives direct tuition payments from the U.S. Veterans Administration and veterans eligible for 100% benefits ("Yellow Ribbon" students) who are enrolled on a full-time basis can receive additional stipends of over \$1500 a month for housing and \$1000 a year for books. These cash expenditures will provide an infusion into our local economy. The College may further explore voluntary participation in the "Yellow Ribbon" program which expands participation and provides a more welcoming campus for eligible student veterans.

The Commission currently has three ex officio members. This bill would increase that number to four and bring the total membership of the Commission to 17 members. The addition of a representative from Montgomery College would bring a level of expertise to the Commission in an area that significantly impacts the lives of a large number of veterans. For the past two years, College staff has participated in Commission meetings on an informal basis. This bill would formalize that arrangement and ensure that the Commission would have timely information and advice about ongoing efforts to develop interdisciplinary models for successful reintegration of our veterans within their families and communities.

Thank you for your active engagement with the veterans' community and for allowing me to testify today. I ask that you support this bill.