

Chapter 413

**(Senate Bill 606)**

AN ACT concerning

**Maryland College Collaboration for Student Veterans Commission**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland College Collaboration for Student Veterans Commission; providing for the membership ~~and appointment~~ and terms of members of the Commission; requiring the Commission to elect the chair, vice chair, and secretary each year; requiring the Commission to meet a certain number of times each year; providing that a member of the Commission may not receive certain compensation, but may receive reimbursement for certain expenses under certain regulations; providing for the duties of the Commission; and generally relating to the Maryland College Collaboration for Student Veterans Commission.

BY adding to

Article – State Government

Section 9–949 through 9–954 to be under the new part “Part VII. Maryland College Collaboration for Student Veterans Commission”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

**Article – State Government**

**9–947. RESERVED.**

**9–948. RESERVED.**

**PART VII. MARYLAND COLLEGE COLLABORATION FOR STUDENT VETERANS COMMISSION.**

**9–949.**

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

**(B) “COLLEGE COLLABORATION” MEANS THE MARYLAND COLLEGE COLLABORATION FOR STUDENT VETERANS, MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE STATE AND MARYLAND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION DATED JANUARY 31, 2011.**

(c) “COMMISSION” MEANS THE MARYLAND COLLEGE COLLABORATION FOR STUDENT VETERANS COMMISSION.

9-950.

THERE IS A MARYLAND COLLEGE COLLABORATION FOR STUDENT VETERANS COMMISSION IN THE DEPARTMENT.

9-951.

(A) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

(1) THE *DESIGNEE OF THE* SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, ~~OR THE SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;~~

~~(2) THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR THE SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE; AND~~

~~(3)~~ (2) THE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND, OR THE CHANCELLOR’S DESIGNEE;

~~(4)~~ (3) THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND INDEPENDENT COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION, OR THE PRESIDENT’S DESIGNEE;

~~(5)~~ (4) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE; AND

~~(3)~~ ~~(6)~~ (5) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF ANY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE THAT ELECTS TO PARTICIPATE, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTION.

~~(B) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A)(6) OF THIS SECTION FROM A LIST OF THREE QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR BY THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SEEKING TO BE REPRESENTED ON THE COMMISSION.~~

~~(C)~~ (B) (1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER IS 2 YEARS.

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

9-952.

**THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT ANNUALLY A CHAIR, A VICE CHAIR, AND A SECRETARY FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

**9-953.**

**(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES EACH YEAR.**

**(B) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:**

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

**(2) MAY RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

**9-954.**

**THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

**(1) WORK TO ENSURE THE EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS OF RETURNING VETERANS, INCLUDING THEIR RECRUITMENT, SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION INTO HIGHER EDUCATION, RETENTION, AND EVENTUAL GRADUATION;**

**(2) FACILITATE THE SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES AMONG INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND STATE AGENCIES REGARDING ACADEMIC TRANSITION PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT SERVICES DESIGNED FOR RETURNING VETERANS;**

**(3) WORK WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TO VETERANS, AS SET FORTH IN THE COLLEGE COLLABORATION:**

**(I) AWARENESS OF VETERAN REINTEGRATION CHALLENGES;**

**(II) COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION OF AVAILABLE VETERAN SERVICES;**

**(III) A DESIGNATED “ONE DOOR” OFFICE THAT COORDINATES VETERAN SERVICES AND SUPPORTS;**

**(IV) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES;**

**(V) FINANCIAL AID AND GI BILL SUPPORT SERVICES; AND**

**(VI) PEER SUPPORT GROUPS; ~~AND~~**

**(4) PUBLISH AN ANNUAL REPORT AND ANY OTHER MATERIAL THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS NECESSARY; AND**

**(5) SUBMIT THE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.

**Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2016.**