

PROPOSED

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2025, Legislative Day No. 23

Bill No. 97-25

Introduced by Ms. Hummer, Chair
(by request of the County Executive)

By the County Council, December 15, 2025

Introduced and first read on December 15, 2025
Public Hearing set for January 20, 2026
Bill Expires March 20, 2026

By Order: Kaley Schultze, Administrative Officer

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning: Boards, Commissions, and Similar Bodies – Veterans
2 Affairs Commission

3
4 FOR the purpose of changing the name of the “Anne Arundel County Veterans Affairs
5 Commission” to the “Anne Arundel County Commission for Veterans and Military
6 Families”; defining “military family”, “United States Armed Forces”, and “veteran”;
7 modifying the purposes, composition, terms of the members, and powers and duties of
8 the Commission; and generally relating to boards, commissions, and similar bodies.

9
10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments: §§ 3-23-101 through 3-23-103, 3-23-
11 104(a), and 3-23-109, under the amended title “Title 23. Commission for Veterans and
12 Military Families”
13 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)

14
15 SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland,*
16 That Section(s) of the Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended) read as follows:

17 18 ARTICLE 3. BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND SIMILAR BODIES

19 20 TITLE 23. COMMISSION FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

21
22 **3-23-101. Established.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate new matter added to existing law and taglines.
[[Brackets]] indicate matter deleted from existing law and taglines.
Captions and taglines in **bold** in this bill are catchwords and are not law.
Asterisks *** indicate existing Code provisions in a list or chart that remain unchanged.

There is a [[Veterans Affairs]] Commission FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES to be known as the “Anne Arundel County [[Veterans Affairs]] Commission FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES”.

3-23-102. [[Purpose]] DEFINITIONS AND PURPOSE.

(A) **DEFINITIONS.** FOR PURPOSES OF THIS TITLE, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(1) “MILITARY FAMILY” INCLUDES A PERSON WHO IS AN ACTIVE DUTY MEMBER, OR MEMBER OF A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES, OR A DEPENDENT OF A VETERAN, ACTIVE DUTY MEMBER, OR MEMBER OF A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

(2) “UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES” MEANS THE UNITED STATES ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, MARINE CORPS, SPACE FORCE, COAST GUARD, AND COMMISSIONED OFFICERS CORPS, INCLUDING THEIR RESERVE COMPONENTS.

(3) “VETERAN” MEANS:

(I) A PERSON WHO SERVED ON FULL-TIME ACTIVE DUTY IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES, OTHER THAN ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING, AND WAS DISCHARGED OR RELEASED UNDER CONDITIONS OTHER THAN DISHONORABLE; OR

(II) A PERSON WHO WAS DISABLED FROM A DISEASE OR INJURY INCURRED OR AGGRAVATED IN THE LINE OF DUTY WHILE PERFORMING ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING OR INACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING.

(B) The purpose of the Commission is to advocate and help to enhance the quality of life for veterans [[of military service]] and [[their]] MILITARY families who live or work within Anne Arundel County by advising the County Executive and the County Council on the coordination and development of government policies, programs, services, and the allocation of resources for veterans and [[their]] MILITARY families.

3-23-103. Composition.

(a) **Voting members.** The Commission consists of [[13]] 15 voting members appointed by the County Executive[, each of whom has separated from the military service under honorable conditions]]. The Commission shall endeavor to be a diverse body of members from all branches of the military. Of the [[13]] 15 members:

(1) [[two]] 11 shall be qualified veterans, pursuant to the guidelines of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, WHO ARE ACTIVE IN AT LEAST ONE SERVICE ORGANIZATION THAT SUPPORTS VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES, AND WHO HAVE SEPARATED FROM MILITARY SERVICE UNDER HONORABLE CONDITIONS;

(2) one shall be an owner or operator of a local business or an employee of a local business WHO SUPPORTS VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES [, selected in consultation with the Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce]];

(3) one shall be an educator or educational administrator WHO SUPPORTS VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES [, selected in consultation with the Anne Arundel Community College]];

1 (4) ~~[[nine]]~~ ONE shall be ~~[[selected by the voting members of the Commission from~~
2 any of the following organizations and in consultation with that organization:

3
4 (i) the Veterans of Foreign Wars;

5
6 (ii) the American Legion;

7
8 (iii) AMVETS;

9
10 (iv) Disabled American Veterans;

11
12 (v) Military Order of the Purple Heart;

13
14 (vi) Fleet Reserve Association;

15
16 (vii) Vietnam Veterans of America;

17
18 (viii) Korean War Veterans Association;

19
20 (ix) a women's veterans organization;

21
22 (x) Military Officers Association of America;

23
24 (xi) National Association of County Veterans Service Officers;

25
26 (xii) Non-Commissioned Officers Association of America;

27
28 (xiii) Reserve Officers Association;

29
30 (xiv) Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America;

31
32 (xv) Student Veterans of America;

33
34 (xvi) Wounded Warrior Project;

35
36 (xvii) Paralyzed Veterans of America; and

37
38 (xviii) other similar organizations that support veterans and their families]] A
39 CURRENT ACTIVE DUTY, RESERVE, OR NATIONAL GUARD MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES
40 ARMED SERVICES; AND

41
42 (5) ONE SHALL BE THE SPOUSE OF A CURRENT ACTIVE DUTY, RESERVE, OR
43 NATIONAL GUARD MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES.

44
45 (b) **Non-voting members.** The Commission shall include four non-voting members
46 who ~~[[shall be]]~~ ARE members of the community WHO SUPPORT VETERANS AND MILITARY
47 FAMILIES AND ARE appointed by the County Executive based on the recommendation of
48 the voting members.

1 (c) **Residency.** Each member of the Commission shall be a resident of Anne Arundel
2 County.

3
4 **3-23-104. Term of members.**

5
6 (a) **Generally.** [[The initial terms of newly appointed voting members shall be
7 staggered so that four members shall serve initial terms of one year, four members shall
8 serve initial terms of two years, and five members shall serve initial terms of three years.
9 Non-voting members, and, after the expiration of the initial terms, voting]] VOTING AND
10 NON-VOTING members shall serve three-year terms. A member whose term has expired
11 holds over until a successor is appointed. A member may serve up to three consecutive full
12 terms, and, after a one-year lapse in service, a member is eligible to be reappointed.

13
14 **3-23-109. Powers and duties.**

15
16 Among its powers and duties, the Commission may:

17
18 (1) establish a forum for all veterans [[of]] AND MILITARY FAMILIES LIVING OR
19 WORKING IN the County;

20
21 (2) maintain coordinated communication with County and local governments,
22 businesses, and veterans [[of]] AND MILITARY FAMILIES LIVING OR WORKING IN the
23 County;

24
25 (3) provide assistance, guidance, and information to the business and academic
26 communities of the County and various levels of government to ensure adequate
27 consideration of veterans AND MILITARY FAMILIES in employment, education, training and
28 public programs; and

29
30 (4) review County, State, and federal legislation that may impact veterans and
31 [[their]] MILITARY families and make recommendations regarding the legislation:

32
33 (i) to the County Executive and County Council; and

34
35 (ii) with the approval of the County Executive, to the State and federal
36 legislatures and executive branches;

37
38 (5) advise the County Executive on the coordination of services among all public
39 and private agencies, departments, and organizations which provide services and programs
40 to veterans and [[their]] MILITARY families; and

41
42 (6) identify and recommend to the County Executive sources of private and public
43 financial assistance available to expand or improve services and programs for veterans and
44 [[their]] MILITARY families.

45
46 SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Ordinance shall take effect 45 days
47 from the date it becomes law.