



Bill No. 17-16

Concerning: Veterans Advisory Council

Introduced: November 7, 2017

Revised: _____ Draft No. _____

Enacted: _____

Effective: _____

Expires: _____

Frederick County Code, Chapter 1-2, Title X

Sections 200-209

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President Bud Otis

AN ACT to: Establish a Veterans Advisory Council

Executive: _____ Date Received: _____

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Vetoed: _____ Date: _____

By adding:

Frederick County Code, Chapter 1-2 Section(s) 200-209

Other: _____

Boldface

Underlining

[Single boldface brackets]

* * *

Heading or defined term.

Added to existing law.

Deleted from existing law.

Existing law unaffected by bill.

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The County Council of Frederick County, Maryland, finds it necessary and appropriate to establish a Veterans Advisory Council (VAC); provide for the composition, meeting standards, term, compensation of members, powers and duties of the VAC, and matters generally relating to the VAC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Frederick County Code be, and it is hereby, amended by adding new Article X to Chapter 1-2, as shown on the attached Exhibit 1.

Harold F. (Bud) Otis, President
County Council of Frederick County,
Maryland

CHAPTER 1-2: ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE X. VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

§1-2-200. Creation, Powers.

- (A) There shall be a Frederick County Veterans Advisory Council (VAC).
- (B) Among its powers and duties, the VAC shall:
 - 1) Participate with established military Veteran oriented service organizations to evaluate, develop and promote new and existing programs and services for Veterans and their families within Frederick County.
 - 2) Establish and maintain a VAC “One-Stop-Shop” web page on the County’s website dedicated to Veteran Services including but not limited to: Links to Frederick County, Maryland, State and Federal programs for Veterans; Suicide Prevention; Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Counseling; Employment Services and opportunities; Veteran Benefits; Crisis hotlines; Veteran Service Organizations; Counseling; Education; Health Services; Service Animals; Housing; Homelessness Prevention Programs; Legal Services; Mortgage Assistance; Readjustment Programs; and Justice-involved Veteran Re-entry Programs.
 - 3) Prepare and publish a monthly VAC Bulletin in conjunction with but not limited to the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs for Veteran events, opportunities, and other relevant information for distribution via electronic mail. Maintain an up-to-date email distribution list of recipients.
 - 4) Work cooperatively with other County Commissions, Boards and Councils, and County staff with regard to policies, programs, and concerns related to Veterans’ interest.
 - 5) Advise the County Executive and County Council of programs and services in the State and County related to the needs of Veterans and their families.

§1-2-201. Composition.

- (A) Subject to confirmation by the County Council, the County Executive shall appoint up to thirteen (13) members to the VAC, the majority of whom shall be registered voters and residents of Frederick County, seven (7) of whom shall have been separated from military service under honorable conditions, and six (6) of whom shall represent the general public.
- (B) VAC members shall represent a variety of organizations and stakeholders.
 - 1) Three (3) members will represent organizations that provide services to Veterans, such as:

Underlining indicates matter added to existing law.

[Single boldface brackets] indicates matter deleted from existing law.

*** - indicates existing law unaffected by bill.

- a) Maryland's Commitment to Veterans (under Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Program);
- b) Serving Together, Connecting Veterans – a program of EveryMind; or
- c) Frederick Veteran Support Network.

- 2) One (1) member will be the Frederick Community College Director of Veteran Services or educational administrator focused on educational opportunities for Veterans.
- 3) Five (5) members who are Veterans and may be a member of a Congressionally Chartered Veterans Group, such as:
 - a) The American Legion;
 - b) American Veterans (AMVETS);
 - c) Korean War Veterans Association;
 - d) Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States;
 - e) Vietnam Veterans of America; or
 - f) Disabled American Veterans.

Note: The Veterans representing Veteran Groups shall be designated by the Post Commander via Officers consensus for appointment to the VAC.

- 4) Two (2) members who are Veterans and serve to represent the following:
 - a) Veterans who served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan; or
 - b) Female Veterans.
- 5) Two (2) members will serve as at-large members.

§1-2-202. Ex-officio members.

- (A) A member from the Frederick County Council.
- (B) A member of the Maryland General Assembly who represents Frederick County.
- (C) A representative from the Office of a member of the U. S. Congress who represents Frederick County.
- (D) A representative from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, such as:
 - 1) Veterans Administration Vet Center;
 - 2) Veterans Administration - Veteran Experience Office; or

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3) Veterans Administration – Community Based Outpatient Clinic / Fort Detrick location.

(E) The Director of the Frederick County Department of Economic Development, or the Director's designee.

(F) The Director of the Frederick County Workforce Services, or the Director's designee.

(G) The Director of the Frederick County Health Department, Behavioral Health Services Division, or the Director's designee.

(H) A Veteran Liaison from Frederick Memorial Hospital or one of its affiliates.

§1-2-203. Terms, Reappointments, Vacancies.

(A) The term of office of each of the members shall be for a period of 3 years.

(B) Of the initial 13 members, 4 shall be appointed for a one year term; 5 shall be appointed for a 2 year term, and 4 shall be appointed for a 3 year term.

(C) Members may be reappointed, but may not serve more than 3 full consecutive 3-year terms.

(D) Vacancies shall be filled on the same basis as the original appointments for the unexpired terms. Members shall continue in office until their successors are appointed and qualified.

(E) A VAC member may be removed by the County Executive for cause.

§1-2-204. Chair, Vice-Chair.

The Chair and Vice Chair will be selected by the members of the VAC.

§1-2-205. Meetings and quorum.

(A) The VAC shall meet monthly or as frequently as determined by the VAC Chair. Meeting location shall be determined by the VAC Chair and shall be in Frederick County, open to the public and ADA accessible.

(B) Notice of the date, time, and place of the VAC meetings shall be posted on the VAC web page.

(C) A majority of the VAC members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of regular business.

(D) Any member of the VAC who shall fail to attend at least 50% of the meetings during any period of 12 consecutive months shall be considered to have resigned. Subject to confirmation by the County Council, the County Executive shall appoint a replacement.

§1-2-206. Rules and regulations.

The VAC shall adopt rules to govern its procedures and activities.

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§1-2-207. Compensation.

Members of the VAC shall receive no compensation for their services.

§1-2-208. Annual Reports.

On or before July 1 of each year, the VAC shall provide an annual report to the County Executive and the County Council which will also be posted to the VAC web page.

§1-2-209. County Staff.

A county staff member will be designated to assist the VAC. The staff member's responsibilities include coordination and support of VAC meetings, agendas, minutes, maintenance of the VAC "One-Stop-Shop" web page, and the monthly electronic mailed VAC Bulletin.

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