

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 06-0440
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Mitchell, Curran, D’Adamo, Young, Harris, Kraft, Holton,
President Dixon, Councilmembers Clarke, Welch, Rawlings Blake, Reisinger, Conaway,
Spector

Introduced and read first time: May 15, 2006

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Baltimore City Veterans Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Baltimore City Veterans Commission; providing for the
4 appointment, terms, powers, and duties of the Commission; providing for staff to the
5 Commission; defining certain terms; and generally relating to assisting veterans and their
6 families.

7 BY adding

8 Article 1 - Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies
9 Section(s) 49-1 through 49-9, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle,
10 “Subtitle 49. Baltimore City Veterans Commission”
11 Baltimore City Code
12 (Edition 2000)

13 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That
14 the Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

15 **Baltimore City Code**

16 **Article 1. Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies**

17 **SUBTITLE 49. BALTIMORE CITY VETERANS COMMISSION**

18 **§ 49-1. “VETERAN” DEFINED”.**

19 IN THIS SUBTITLE, “VETERAN” MEANS A PERSON WHO:

20 (1) SERVED IN THE ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE OF:

21 (I) THE ARMY, NAVY, MARINE CORPS, OR AIR FORCE;

22 (II) THE COAST GUARD, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSIONED CORPS, OR
23 MERCHANT MARINES;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Council Bill 06-0440

1 (III) THE ARMY, AIR, OR STATE NATIONAL GUARD; OR

2 (IV) A RESERVE COMPONENT OF ONE OF THESE SERVICES; AND

3 (2) WAS RELEASED FROM THAT SERVICE OTHER THAN BY DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE.

4 **§ 49-2. COMMISSION ESTABLISHED.**

5 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

6 THERE IS A BALTIMORE CITY VETERANS COMMISSION.

7 (B) *COMPOSITION.*

8 THE COMMISSION COMPRISES THE FOLLOWING 11 MEMBERS:

9 (1) 5 MEMBERS, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE IV,
10 § 6 OF THE CITY CHARTER;

11 (2) 4 MEMBERS, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL;

12 (3) THE POLICE COMMISSIONER; AND

13 (4) THE FIRE CHIEF.

14 (C) *QUALIFICATIONS.*

15 EACH APPOINTED MEMBER MUST BE A VETERAN.

16 **§ 49-3. PURPOSE.**

17 THE VETERANS COMMISSION IS DEDICATED TO:

18 (1) PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS WHO RESIDE IN THE CITY, ARE EMPLOYED BY
19 THE CITY, OR ARE RETIRED CITY EMPLOYEES, AND THEIR FAMILIES, WHEN IN NEED;
20 AND

21 (2) WORKING WITH THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL, VETERANS GROUPS, AND OTHERS ON
22 POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND CONCERNS RELATED TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

23 **§ 49-4. TERMS, COMPENSATION, VACANCIES.**

24 (A) *TERMS OF OFFICE.*

25 (1) COMMISSION MEMBERS SERVE FOR A TERM OF 4 YEARS, CONCURRENT WITH THE
26 TERMS OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL.

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

Council Bill 06-0440

1 (B) *COMPENSATION; EXPENSES.*

2 MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION:

3 (1) ARE NOT ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR SERVICES; BUT

4 (2) ARE ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES INCURRED, AS PROVIDED IN THE
5 ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES.

6 (C) *VACANCIES.*

7 A MEMBER APPOINTED TO FILL A VACANCY IN AN UNEXPIRED TERM OR TO SUCCEED A
8 MEMBER WHO IS HOLDING OVER SERVES ONLY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THAT TERM.

9 **§ 49-5. OFFICERS; COMMITTEES.**

10 (A) *OFFICERS.*

11 (1) THE MAYOR SHALL DESIGNATE A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION TO SERVE AS ITS
12 CHAIR.

13 (2) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION MAY SELECT ANY OTHER OFFICERS THEY CONSIDER
14 NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE.

15 (B) *COMMITTEES.*

16 THE CHAIR MAY APPOINT COMMITTEES TO ASSIST THE COMMISSION IN CARRYING OUT ITS
17 FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES.

18 **§ 49-6. MEETINGS; QUORUM.**

19 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

20 (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR AS FREQUENTLY AS
21 REQUIRED TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES.

22 (2) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION CONSTITUTES A QUORUM FOR THE
23 TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS.

24 (3) AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE BY THE MAJORITY OF A QUORUM IS NEEDED FOR ANY OFFICIAL
25 ACTION.

26 (B) *RULES OF PROCEDURE.*

27 THE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT RULES OF PROCEDURE TO GOVERN ITS MEETINGS AND
28 OPERATIONS.

Council Bill 06-0440

1 (C) *FAILURE TO ATTEND MEETINGS.*

2 IF ANY MEMBER IS ABSENT FROM REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS MORE THAN 3 TIMES
3 IN 1 YEAR, NOT COUNTING ABSENCES EXCUSED BY THE CHAIR:

4 (1) THE MEMBER IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE RESIGNED; AND

5 (2) THE CHAIR SHALL REQUEST THAT MEMBER'S APPOINTING AUTHORITY TO FILL THE
6 RESULTANT VACANCY.

7 **§ 49-6. PERSONNEL; BUDGET.**

8 (A) *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.*

9 (1) THE COMMISSION MAY APPOINT A PROPERLY QUALIFIED PERSON AS ITS EXECUTIVE
10 DIRECTOR.

11 (2) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS ENTITLED TO A SALARY, AS PROVIDED IN THE
12 ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES.

13 (3) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL PERFORM THE DUTIES THAT THE COMMISSION
14 PRESCRIBES.

15 (B) *STAFF.*

16 (1) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY EMPLOY A STAFF AS PROVIDED IN THE ORDINANCE OF
17 ESTIMATES.

18 (2) STAFF MEMBERS SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE.

19 (C) *VOLUNTEERS.*

20 THE COMMISSION MAY ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF VOLUNTEER WORKERS AND
21 CONSULTANTS, WITHOUT SALARY, AS IT CONSIDERS NECESSARY FROM TIME TO TIME.

22 (D) *BUDGET.*

23 THE COMMISSION MAY EXPEND FUNDS AS AUTHORIZED IN THE ORDINANCE OF ESTIMATES
24 OR IN ANY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS.

25 **§ 49-8. POWERS AND DUTIES.**

26 (A) *ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS, ETC.*

27 THE COMMISSION SHALL ASSIST VETERANS WHO RESIDE IN THE CITY, ARE EMPLOYED BY
28 THE CITY, OR ARE RETIRED CITY EMPLOYEES, AND THEIR FAMILIES, IN MATTERS RELATING
29 TO:

30 (1) EDUCATIONAL TRAINING AND RETRAINING SERVICES AND FACILITIES;

31 (2) HEALTH, MEDICAL, AND REHABILITATION SERVICES AND FACILITIES;

Council Bill 06-0440

1 (3) SPECIAL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES PROVIDED BY FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS
2 AND REGULATIONS;

3 (4) EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES; AND

4 (5) OTHER MATTERS OF A RELATED OR SIMILAR NATURE.

5 (B) *INFORMATION RESOURCE.*

6 THE COMMISSION SHALL SERVE AS A RESOURCE FOR INFORMATION RELATING TO
7 VETERANS' ISSUES.

8 (C) *COMMUNITY AWARENESS.*

9 THE COMMISSION SHALL UNDERTAKE AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS TO:

10 (1) INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF VETERANS' RIGHTS;

11 (2) HONOR AND MEMORIALIZE DECEASED VETERANS; AND

12 (3) HONOR THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES.

13 **§ 49-9. AGENCY COOPERATION.**

14 AT THE REQUEST OF THE COMMISSION, ALL CITY OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES SHALL COOPERATE
15 WITH THE COMMISSION AND EXTEND THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES THAT THE COMMISSION
16 REQUIRES.

17 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance
18 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior
19 Ordinance.

20 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day
21 after the date it is enacted.