

Introduced _____
Public Hearing _____
Action _____
Executive Action _____
Effective Date _____

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2022 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 11

Bill No. 48-2022

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

AN ACT to establish an LGBTQIA+ Commission; providing for the membership of the Commission; providing for the purpose and duties of the Commission; providing for the method of appointment and staff; requiring certain meetings and certain reports; providing the expiration dates of the terms of the initial members of the Commission; and generally relating to the LGBTQIA+ Commission.

Introduced and read first time _____, 2022. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on _____, 2022.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on _____, 2022 and Passed ____, Passed with amendments _____, Failed _____.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this ____ day of _____, 2022 at ____ a.m./p.m.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive _____, 2022

Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1 **WHEREAS**, the LGBTQ+ Workgroup was established by County Executive Ball in
2 November of 2019 with a mission of evaluating how “Howard County Government can improve
3 and explore methods of improving communication with the LGBTQ+ community to ensure every
4 resident is treated fairly and equally”; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the LGBTQ+ Workgroup convened in April of 2021 with a final report
7 recommending “the former LGBTQ+ Workgroup be transformed into an LGBTQIA+
8 Commission in order to solidify the relationship between the LGBTQIA+ community and the
9 county government”; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, LGBTQIA+ is the most inclusive nomenclature as it incorporates a broader
12 spectrum of gender and sexuality, including intersex and asexual; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, although Howard County has made great strides in equity, diversity and
15 inclusion, the County Executive recognizes that more is needed to fully realize a culture of
16 inclusion, communication, understanding and respect for all gender and sexual identities; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, the County Executive is committed to elevating the critical issues of the
19 LGBTQIA+ community in Howard County and wishes to establish an LGBTQIA+ Commission
20 in order to advance policy and systemic change.

21
22 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

23
24 *Section 1. Be It Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard*
25 *County Code is amended as follows:*

- 26 1. *By adding Section 6.347 “LGBTQIA+ Commission” to Title 6. County Executive and the*
27 *Executive Branch.*
28 2. *Section 12.218 “Severability” of Title 12, Health and Social Services, is renumbered to be*
29 *Section 12.219.*
30 3. *By adding Section 12.218 “LGBTQIA+ Commission” to Title 12, Health and Social Services.*

1 **Title 6. County Executive and the Executive Branch.**

2 **Subtitle 3. Boards and Commissions.**

3
4 **SECTION 6.347. LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION.**

5 THERE IS A LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION IN HOWARD COUNTY. ITS MEMBERSHIP, DUTIES, AND
6 RESPONSIBILITIES ARE SET FORTH IN SECTION 12.218 “LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION” OF TITLE 12,
7 “HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES,” OF THIS CODE.

8
9 **Title 12. Health and Social Services.**

10 **Subtitle 2. Human Rights.**

11
12 **SECTION 12.218. LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION; GENERAL PROVISIONS; PURPOSE; MEMBERSHIP;**
13 **METHOD OF APPOINTMENT; STAFFING; MEETINGS; DUTIES; ANNUAL REPORT.**

14 (A) *GENERAL PROVISIONS.* GENERAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO THE COMMISSION ARE SET
15 FORTH IN SUBTITLE 3, "BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS," OF TITLE 6, “COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE
16 EXECUTIVE BRANCH” OF THIS CODE.

17 (B) *PURPOSE.* THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO ADVANCE THE VALUES OF DIVERSITY AND
18 CIVILITY, AND TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH COUNTY AGENCIES, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND
19 OTHER INTERESTED COMMUNITY GROUPS TO FACILITATE AN ENVIRONMENT OF INCLUSION,
20 COMMUNICATION, UNDERSTANDING, AND RESPECT THROUGH THE COUNTY AS A WHOLE AND
21 WITHIN THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY.

22 (C) *NUMBER OF MEMBERS.* THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF A MINIMUM OF 13 MEMBERS AND
23 A MAXIMUM OF 17 MEMBERS.

24 (D) *MEMBERSHIP.* THE COMMISSION SHALL BE COMPRISED OF:

25 (1) THE FOLLOWING EX-OFFICIO MEMBER:

26 (i) THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM OR THE
27 SUPERINTENDENT’S DESIGNEE; AND

28 (2) THE FOLLOWING APPOINTED MEMBERS:

29 (i) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM HOPEWORKS;

30 (ii) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM GRASSROOTS OR ANY SIMILAR ENTITY WHO HELPS

- 1 UNDER- RESOURCED INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES;
- 2 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION;
- 3 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM COMMUNITY ALLIES OF RAINBOW YOUTH (CARY);
- 4 (V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM PARENTS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS OF LESBIAN & GAYS
- 5 (PFLAG) OF HOWARD COUNTY;
- 6 (VI) AT LEAST 6 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY; AND
- 7 (VII) AT LEAST 1 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UNDER THE AGE OF 19 WHO SHALL SERVE A
- 8 TERM THAT RUNS FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30.

9 (E) *METHOD OF APPOINTMENT.* EACH APPOINTED MEMBER SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY
10 EXECUTIVE AND CONFIRMED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

11 (F) *EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND OTHER STAFF.* THE ADMINISTRATOR OR THE ADMINISTRATOR'S
12 DESIGNEE SHALL SERVE AS THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION AND SHALL ATTEND
13 ALL MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION AND, IN ADDITION TO THE DUTIES SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBTITLE,
14 SHALL PERFORM DUTIES AS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMMISSION. THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE MAY
15 ALSO DESIGNATE A COUNTY EMPLOYEE TO SERVE AS A LIAISON TO THE COMMISSION.

16 (G) *MEETINGS.* THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST QUARTERLY.

17 (H) *DUTIES.* THE COMMISSION SHALL:

- 18 (1) SUPPORT EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE, EDUCATE, AND MOBILIZE THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY
- 19 THROUGH COALITION BUILDING AND COORDINATION WITH ALLIED INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS,
- 20 AND ORGANIZATIONS;
- 21 (2) WORK WITH HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICES TO IDENTIFY
- 22 BEST PRACTICES TO AFFIRM MEMBERS OF THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY;
- 23 (3) RECOMMEND INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT LGBTQIA+ FAMILIES AND CHILDREN;
- 24 (3) ADVISE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL ON POLICY AND PROGRAMS
- 25 IMPACTING HOWARD COUNTY, AND ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY
- 26 TRAINING WITH EMPHASIS ON NON-BINARY AND TRANSGENDER IDENTITIES;
- 27 (4) ADVISE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL ON POLICY AND PROGRAMS TO
- 28 IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR UNDERSERVED AND AT-RISK SEGMENTS OF THE LGBTQIA+
- 29 POPULATION, INCLUDING YOUTH, COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS,
- 30 SENIORS, AND IMMIGRANTS; AND

1 (5) SUPPORT, PLAN AND EXECUTE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS TO CELEBRATE AND AFFIRM THE
2 LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY.

3 (I) *ANNUAL REPORT*. ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 28 OF EACH YEAR, THE COMMISSION SHALL
4 SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT WHICH SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 22.1000
5 OF THIS CODE TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ON ITS ACTIVITIES DURING
6 THE PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR. THE REPORT MAY INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ANY MATTER
7 RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

8
9 **Section ~~[[12.218]]12.219~~. - Separability.**

10 The provisions of this subtitle are separable; and if any provision, sentence, clause, section,
11 subsection or part thereof is held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional or inapplicable to any person
12 or circumstance, the illegality, invalidity, unconstitutionality or inapplicability shall not affect
13 nor impair any of the remainder of the subtitle or its application to other persons or
14 circumstances.

15
16 ***Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that,
17 *to establish the stagger of terms required by § 6.300 of the Howard County Code, of the initial*
18 *appointees to the LGBTQIA+ Commission, 3 appointees shall have a term of 1 year, at least 5*
19 *appointees shall have a term of 2 years, and at least 5 appointees shall have a term of 3 years, as*
20 *provided in the Resolutions that confirm the appointments.*

21
22 ***Section 3. And Be It Further Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that
23 *this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.*