

Introduced 09.03.2024
Public Hearing 09.16.2024
Council Action 10.07.2024
Executive Action 10.10.2024
Effective Date 12.10.2024

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2024 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 10

Bill No. 52 -2024

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

Short Title: LGBTQIA+ Commission – Amendment to membership

Title: AN ACT amending the membership of the LGBTQIA+ Commission to add that up to two members can work or attend school in the County; amending the appointment requirements for the college student; and generally relating to the LGBTQIA+ Commission.

Introduced and read first time Sept 3, 2024. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order

Michelle Harrod
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 Sept 16, 2024.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on Oct 7, 2024 and Passed , Passed with amendments _____, Failed _____.

By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Scaled with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 8 day of Oct, 2024 at 2⁰⁰ a.m./p.m.

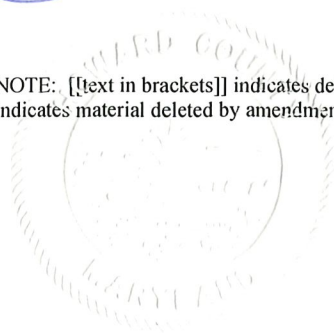
By order

Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive Oct 10, 2024

Calvin Ball
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 **Section 1. Be It Enacted** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that the
2 following provisions of the Howard County Code are amended:

3
4 *Title 12. Health and Social Services.*

5 *Section 12.218 "General provisions; purpose; membership; method of*
6 *appointment; staffing; meetings; duties".*

7
8 **Title 12. Health and Social Services.**

9 **Subtitle 2. Human Rights.**

10
11 **Section 12.218. General provisions; purpose; membership; method of appointment;**
12 **staffing; meetings; duties.**

13 (a) *General Provisions.* General provisions applicable to the Commission are set forth in
14 subtitle 3, "Boards and Commissions," of title 6, "County Executive and the Executive
15 Branch" of this Code.

16 (b) *Purpose.* The purpose of the Commission is to advance the values of diversity and
17 civility, and to continue to work with county agencies, non-profit organizations and other
18 interested community groups to facilitate an environment of inclusion, communication,
19 understanding, and respect through the County as a whole and within the LGBTQIA+
20 community.

21 (c) *Number of Members.* The Commission shall consist of a minimum of 15 members
22 and a maximum of 21 members.

23 (d) *Membership.* The Commission shall be comprised of:

24 (1) The following ex-officio ~~[[member]]~~ MEMBERS:

25 a. The Superintendent of the Howard County Public School System or the
26 Superintendent's designee; and

27 b. The President of Howard Community College or the President's Designee;
28 and

29 (2) The following appointed members, ~~[[who]]~~ WHERE UP TO TWO MEMBERS MAY
30 WORK OR ATTEND SCHOOL WITHIN THE COUNTY AND REMAINING MEMBERS shall
31 be residents of the County:

- 1 a. One representative from HopeWorks;
- 2 b. One representative from Grassroots or any similar entity who helps under-
- 3 resourced individuals and families;
- 4 c. One representative from the Human Rights Commission;
- 5 d. One representative from Community Allies of Rainbow Youth (CARY);
- 6 e. One representative from Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbian & Gays
- 7 (PFLAG) of Howard County; AND
- 8 f. At least six representatives from the LGBTQIA+ community[[:;]].

9 (3) THE FOLLOWING APPOINTED STUDENT MEMBERS:

10 [[g.]]A. At least one HIGH SCHOOL student representative under the age of 19
 11 who shall serve a term that runs from July 1 through June 30; and

12 [[h.]]B. At least one student ENROLLED IN A COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OR TRADE
 13 SCHOOL [[who resides in Howard County and]] who RESIDES, WORKS OR
 14 attends AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN [[a college or university]]
 15 HOWARD COUNTY who shall serve a term that runs from July 1 through
 16 June 30.

17 (e) *Method of Appointment.* Each appointed member shall be appointed by the County
 18 Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

19 (f) *Executive Secretary and Other Staff.* The Administrator or the Administrator's
 20 designee shall serve as the Executive Secretary of the Commission and shall attend all
 21 meetings of the Commission and, in addition to the duties specified in this subtitle, shall
 22 perform duties as prescribed by the Commission. The County Executive may also
 23 designate a county employee to serve as a liaison to the Commission.

24 (g) *Meetings.* The Commission shall meet at least quarterly.

25 (h) *Duties.* The Commission shall:

- 26 (1) Support efforts to organize, educate, and mobilize the LGBTQIA+ community
- 27 through coalition building and coordination with allied individuals, groups, and
- 28 organizations;
- 29 (2) Work with Howard County Government Departments and Offices to identify
- 30 best practices to affirm members of the LGBTQIA+ community;
- 31 (3) Recommend initiatives to support LGBTQIA+ families and children;

- 1 (4) Advise the County Executive and County Council on policy and programs
2 impacting Howard County, and on sexual orientation and gender identity
3 training with emphasis on non-binary and transgender identities;
- 4 (5) Advise the County Executive and County Council on policy and programs to
5 improve outcomes for underserved and at-risk segments of the LGBTQIA+
6 population, including youth, communities of color, non-English speakers,
7 seniors, and immigrants; and
- 8 (6) Support, plan and execute programs and events to celebrate and affirm the
9 LGBTQIA+ community.
- 10 (i) *Annual Report.* On or before February 28 of each year, the Commission shall submit
11 an annual report which shall comply with the requirements of section 22.1000 of this
12 Code to the County Council and the County Executive on its activities during the
13 previous calendar year. The report may include recommendations on any matter related
14 to the work of the Commission.

15
16 ***Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County,
17 *Maryland, that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.*



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

SUBJECT: Council Testimony, Fiscal Impact Statement & Equity Impact Statement
Human Rights Code § 12.218 - LGBTQIA+ Commission member qualification
change

TO: Brandee Ganz
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Yolanda F. Sonnier, Administrator
Office of Human Rights and Equity

DATE: August 21, 2024

The LGBTQIA+ Commission (*hereinafter Commission*) was established through Howard County Bill No. 48-2022 and became effective October 1, 2022. This bill was codified in the Howard County Human Rights Code, Section 12.218.

The pre-filed legislation for CB 48-2022 did not require members of the commission to be county residents but through an amendment filed by a County Council member, it required all members of the commission be residents of the County.

The Commission and the Office of Human Rights & Equity recognized that requiring all commissioners and college students to be residents of Howard County restricted and placed a barrier for some people who are committed to and actively engaged in Howard County since they work or attend school in the county. This restriction has prevented the Commission from recruiting those who work or attend school in the county but don't reside in Howard County.

The Commission at their May 9, 2024, meeting, discussed the need for more flexibility when filling vacancies. The Commission made and passed a motion requesting the County Executive propose a change to the County Council specific to the LGBTQIA+ Commission to:

- Allow two commissioners who either live, work, or study at an institute for higher educational in Howard County; and
- Allow the college student commissioner to live, work or study at an institution of higher education in Howard County.

The County Executive supports this change and has put forth the attached legislation accordingly.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact to this legislation.

Equity Impact:

This change in the Howard County Code will allow the LGBTQIA+ Commission to be more inclusive of community members who may not live in the county but actively contribute by working or attending a higher education institution in Howard County. Since the commissioners are unpaid volunteers, there is no concern that non-county residents are being prioritized over county residents for paid positions. A non-county resident volunteering as a commissioner can make valuable contributions and bring broader perspectives to benefit the Howard County community.

Harrod, Michelle

From: Harrod, Michelle
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 12:13 PM
To: joel hurewitz
Subject: RE: CB52-2024 LGBTQIA+ Commission Title Missing "to"

Joel

Thanks for pointing this out. It is a minor change that we can correct upon enrollment.

Title: AN ACT amending the membership of the LGBTQIA+ Commission to add that up **to** two

Thank you,

Michelle R. Harrod

Howard County Government
Administrator to the County Council

410-313-3111 (office)

443-398-6013 (cell)

mrharrod@howardcountymd.gov

From: joel hurewitz <joelhurewitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 11:26 AM
To: Harrod, Michelle <mrharrod@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CB52-2024 LGBTQIA+ Commission Title Missing "to"

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

It appears that nobody has noticed the missing "to" in the title of CB52 that has been included twice in the video chyron and orally at first reading.

Joel Hurewitz

*Technical Correction made
10/8/2024
Michelle Harrod*

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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 _____, 2024.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on _____, 2024 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 _____, 2024 at ___ a.m./p.m.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive _____, 2024

Calvin Ball, County Executive

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14 to the work of the Commission.

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16 ***Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County,***
17 ***Maryland, that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.***

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on October 10, 2024.

Michelle R. Harrod
Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on _____, 2024.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on _____, 2024.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on _____, 2024.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on _____, 2024.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on _____, 2024.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council