

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 23-008

Introduced by Council President Vincenti at the request of the County Executive

Legislative Day No. 23-007 Date March 7, 2023

AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Article XII, James V. "Capt'n Jim" McMahan Commission on Veterans' Affairs, of Part 2, Nonbinding Advisory Boards, of Chapter 9, Boards, Commissions, Councils and Agencies, of the Harford County Code, as amended; to rename the Commission after Sergeant Alfred B. Hilton; and generally relating to the Commission on Veterans' Affairs.

By the Council, March 7, 2023

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled:

on: April 4, 2023

at: 6:00 PM

By Order: *Mylia A. Dixon*, Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on _____, and concluded on _____.

_____, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

1 WHEREAS, Sergeant Alfred B. Hilton was born in the Hopewell area in Harford County,
2 Maryland; and

3 WHEREAS, Sergeant Hilton enlisted in the 4th Regiment United States Colored Troops in
4 August 1863 during the civil war and served the United States in various military capacities; and

5 WHEREAS, on September 29, 1864, Sergeant Hilton was tasked with carrying the National
6 Flag for his regiment and during battle was wounded, but continued forward, carrying his flag.
7 Sergeant Hilton then rescued the regimental standard from a fallen soldier and proceeded forward
8 carrying both flags until he was unable to continue.

9 WHEREAS, Sergeant Hilton died of his wounds on October 21, 1864; and

10 WHEREAS, on April 6, 1865, Sergeant Hilton was honored with the Medal of Honor and
11 remains the only Harford County native to be honored with the Medal of Honor.

12 NOW, THEREFORE,

13 Section 1. Be It Enacted by The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Article XII,
14 Commission on Veterans’ Affairs, of Part 2, Nonbinding Advisory Boards, of Chapter 9, Boards,
15 Commissions, Councils and Agencies, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby,
16 repealed and reenacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:

17 **Chapter 9. Boards, Commissions, Councils and Agencies**

18 **Part 2. Nonbinding Advisory Boards**

19 **Article XII. [James V. “Capt’n Jim” McMahan] SERGEANT ALFRED B. HILTON**
20 **Commission on Veterans’ Affairs**

21 **§ 9-75. Creation.**

22 There is hereby established [a James V. “Capt’n Jim” McMahan] THE SERGEANT ALFRED B.
23 HILTON Commission on Veterans’ Affairs consisting of 13 members.

24 **§ 9-76. Membership.**

25 A. The County Executive shall appoint the members of the [James V. “Capt’n Jim” McMahan]
26 SERGEANT ALFRED B. HILTON Commission on Veterans’ Affairs subject to

1 confirmation by the County Council, except for the member appointed by the Council.

2 B. The County Executive shall appoint 8 members who are veterans and may be a member of a
3 veterans' group such as the following:

- 4 (1) Vietnam Veterans of America;
- 5 (2) Navy-Marine Corps League;
- 6 (3) Disabled American Veterans;
- 7 (4) Veterans of Foreign Wars;
- 8 (5) Women's Army Corps Veterans Association;
- 9 (6) American Legion;
- 10 (7) Military Order of the Purple Heart;
- 11 (8) Military Officers Association of America; or
- 12 (9) Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

13 C. The County Executive shall also appoint 4 members to represent the general public.

14 D. The County Council shall appoint 1 member to serve.

15 E. The County Executive shall designate the following as ex-officio members:

- 16 (1) The Garrison Commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground, or the Commander's
17 designee;
- 18 (2) A representative from Harford Community College familiar with veterans'
19 educational issues; and
- 20 (3) A representative from the Harford County Chamber of Commerce.

21 F. The term of each member shall be coterminous with that of the County Executive.

22 G. The County Executive shall designate the Chairperson, and the members shall designate the
23 Vice-Chairperson and Secretary.

1 H. In the event an appointment is made to fill a vacancy before a term expires, the successor
2 shall serve the rest of the unexpired term.

3 **§ 9-77. Duties and responsibilities.**

4 The duties of the Commission are:

5 A. To research, assemble, analyze and disseminate information and educational materials
6 relating to activities and programs that will assist in meeting the needs of veterans and their
7 families;

8 B. To institute and conduct educational and other programs, meetings and conferences to
9 promote the rights and opportunities for veterans;

10 C. To advise the County Executive and County Council on the status of programs and services
11 in the state and County related to the needs of veterans and their families; and

12 D. To assist in planning appropriate public acknowledgment of the contributions made by
13 veterans and assist in planning commemoration activities recognizing the contributions made
14 by veterans.

15 **§ 9-78. Staff; meeting compensation.**

16 A. The County may provide staff support to the Commission.

17 B. The meetings of the Commission shall be called by the Chairperson. The Commission shall
18 meet as often as necessary to perform its duties but not less than 9 times per year.

19 C. A member may be removed only for cause by the County Executive, subject to the approval
20 of the County Council.

21 D. Any member missing three consecutive meetings shall be deemed to have terminated his or
22 her membership on the Commission unless the Commission shall, by majority vote, excuse
23 one or more of the absences.

1 E. The members shall receive no compensation for their service but may be reimbursed for
2 reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

3 **§ 9-79. Adoption of regulations.**

4 The Commission shall adopt such regulations as deemed necessary to govern its procedures and
5 business. Such regulations shall be adopted in accordance with Section 807 of the Charter of Harford
6 County.

7 **§ 9-80. Annual report.**

8 The Commission shall submit an annual report on its functions, activities and accomplishments to
9 the County Executive and County Council and any other appropriate agency by July 1 of each year.

10 **§ 9-81. Advocacy.**

11 The Commission shall not engage in any advocacy activities at the state or federal levels unless
12 approved by the County Executive.

13 Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act shall take effect 60 calendar days from the
14 date it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE:

The Council Administrator does hereby certify that seven (7) copies of this Bill are immediately available for distribution to the public and the press.



Council Administrator