

HOUSE BILL 961

P1

4lr2445

By: Delegates Taveras, Acevero, Bhandari, Boafu, Charkoudian, Hill, Ivey, Lehman, J. Long, Mireku-North, Ruff, ~~and Wilkins~~ Wilkins, Alston, Bagnall, Cullison, Guzzone, S. Johnson, Kaiser, Kerr, R. Lewis, Lopez, Martinez, Pena-Melnyk, Rosenberg, White Holland, and Woods

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Commission on New Americans – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on New Americans to study and report
4 periodically on the contributions of new Americans and the availability of
5 government services for new Americans; and generally relating to the Commission
6 on New Americans.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – State Government

9 Section 9–3305

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – State Government**

15 **9–3305.**

16 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
17 **INDICATED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



(2) “COMMISSION” MEANS THE COMMISSION ON NEW AMERICANS.

(3) “NEW AMERICAN” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL:

(I) WHO IS A RESIDENT OF MARYLAND;

**(II) WHOSE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IS A COUNTRY OTHER THAN
THE UNITED STATES; AND**

(III) 1. WHO IS NOT A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES; OR

**2. WHO HAS RECENTLY BECOME A NATURALIZED
CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.**

(4) “SECOND GENERATION AMERICAN” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

(I) WAS BORN IN THE UNITED STATES; AND

(II) IS THE CHILD OF A NEW AMERICAN.

(B) THERE IS A COMMISSION ON NEW AMERICANS.

(C) (1) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

**(I) 1 MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

**(II) 1 MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY
THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE; AND**

**(III) 15 MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR THAT HAVE
EXPERTISE IN AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

1. ENTREPRENEURSHIP;

2. HEALTH CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH;

3. LABOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT;

4. POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT;

5. ARTS, CULTURE, SPORTS, AND ENTERTAINMENT;

6. HOUSING;

1 7. TRANSPORTATION;

2 8. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH;

3 9. PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION;

4 10. HIGHER EDUCATION;

5 11. MIGRATION AND DEMOGRAPHY;

6 12. IMMIGRATION LAW AND POLICY;

7 13. CRIMINOLOGY;

8 14. FAMILY SCIENCES AND POVERTY; AND

9 15. THE PROVISION OF SERVICES BY GOVERNMENTAL
10 AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.

11 (2) (I) AT LEAST 5 MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR
12 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(III) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE NEW AMERICANS.

13 (II) AT LEAST 4 MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR
14 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(III) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE SECOND GENERATION
15 AMERICANS.

16 (D) THE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND THE
17 MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL ALTERNATE IN
18 SERVING AS THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION EVERY 5 YEARS.

19 (E) THE OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COMMISSION.

20 (F) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:

21 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE
22 COMMISSION; BUT

23 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
24 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

25 (G) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEASURE AND REPORT ON:

26 (1) THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NEW AMERICANS TO THE STATE; AND

(2) THE AVAILABILITY OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES IN THE JURISDICTIONS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (H)(2) OF THIS SECTION AND THROUGHOUT THE STATE FOR NEW AMERICANS.

(H) (1) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2026, AND AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 5 YEARS THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(2) THE REPORT REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

(I) A QUANTITATIVE REPORT DETAILING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NEW AMERICANS AND THE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO NEW AMERICANS:

- 1. IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY;**
- 2. IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY;**
- 3. IN BALTIMORE COUNTY;**
- 4. IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY;**
- 5. IN BALTIMORE CITY;**
- 6. IN HOWARD COUNTY; AND**
- 7. THROUGHOUT THE STATE; AND**

(II) A QUALITATIVE REPORT:

1. MEASURING CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AND IDENTIFYING ANY GAPS IN THE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO NEW AMERICANS:

- A. IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY;**
- B. IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY;**
- C. IN BALTIMORE COUNTY;**
- D. IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY;**
- E. IN BALTIMORE CITY;**
- F. IN HOWARD COUNTY; AND**
- G. THROUGHOUT THE STATE; AND**

1 2. MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS ANY GAPS
2 IDENTIFIED UNDER ITEM 1 OF THIS ITEM.

3 ~~(i) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE~~
4 ~~GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION FOR~~
5 ~~THE COMMISSION IN AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO CARRY OUT THE REQUIREMENTS~~
6 ~~OF THIS SECTION.~~

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
8 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.