

The Jobs for Veterans Commission was established October 29, 1971, by Executive Order, under authority of Article 2, Section 24 of the Maryland Constitution. The Commission was originally created on an emergency basis in order to implement "Operation Thanksgiving", a concentrated publicity effort in the Fall of 1971 wherein Maryland employers were urged to hire returning veterans. Since that time national support for the Jobs for Veterans program has brought the veterans unemployment rate closer to the national average for comparable age groups. Leading veterans organizations at their annual conventions have urged continuing support to programs directly related to the Jobs for Veterans campaign.

The Commission cooperates with and assists the Department of Employment and Social Services in matters directly relating to the obtaining of satisfactory employment for veterans. It promotes and monitors programs and services to veterans by the Maryland Veterans Commission, the Maryland State Employment Service, the Department of Education, the Concentrated Employment Program and Veterans Representatives at the various service centers within the State. The Commission also monitors promotional campaigns involving veterans. It solicits the endorsement and participation of private businesses, as well as local, State and Federal governments, in a program of priority hiring of veterans, and promotes a greater public awareness of the need to hire them.

Membership in the Commission is comprised of no fewer than 25 members appointed by the Governor, for one-year terms subject to reappointment, plus five ex officio members who are: the Secretary of State of Maryland, the Secretary of Employment and Social Services, the Secretary of Personnel, the Chairman of Maryland Veterans Commission, and the United States Veterans Administration representative, as designated by the federal supervisor of Maryland Veterans Affairs.

Nine of the remaining members represent Maryland chapters of the: American Legion, the Fleet Reserve Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the World War I Veterans, the Marine Corps League, the American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, the Jewish War Veterans, and the Catholic War Veterans.

The remaining sixteen members represent business, labor, the General Assembly and the general public. The Governor designates the Chairman and the Co-chairman.