

Vietnam and disabled veteran owned businesses in obtaining federal, State, county, city, and local government financial assistance and contracts.

WHEREAS, It is the policy of this State to retain, enhance, and attract business in this State; and

WHEREAS, There are 177,000 Vietnam veterans and 71,000 disabled veterans in this State; and

WHEREAS, The assistance of Vietnam and disabled veterans in the establishment and expansion of small businesses would further the economic policy of this State; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States has appropriated \$25,000,000 for loans to small businesses owned by Vietnam and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, Additional capital for Vietnam and disabled veteran operated businesses would further the economic development policy of this State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor is requested to establish a Vietnam and Disabled Veteran's Business Resource Council to perform the following duties and responsibilities:

(1) Create a list of Vietnam and disabled veteran owned businesses in this State;

(2) Distribute the list of Vietnam and disabled veteran owned businesses to the businesses on the list so that Vietnam and disabled veteran owned businesses can use the goods and services of other such businesses;

(3) Disseminate information on programs available to assist Vietnam and disabled veteran owned businesses;

(4) Conduct educational programs in the community which address the needs of the Vietnam and disabled veteran owned businesses in this State;

(5) Assist Vietnam and disabled veteran owned businesses in applying for financial assistance provided by existing programs; and

(6) Assist Vietnam and disabled veteran owned businesses in the procurement of federal, State, county, city, and local government contracts; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Council be composed of 15 members to be appointed as follows:

(1) 1 or more members of veterans organizations, appointed by the Governor;