

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND  
Legislative Session 2016, Legislative Day No. 1

Bill No. 1-16

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All Councilmembers

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By the County Council, January 4, 2016

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A BILL  
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Human Relations – Veterans

FOR the purpose of prohibiting discrimination against a person in certain matters on the basis of status as a veteran; defining terms; providing an exception in favor of veterans' preferences; and generally relating to discrimination on the basis of a person's status as a veteran.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Section 29-1-101(d)  
Article 29- Human Relations  
Title 1- In General  
Baltimore County Code 2003

BY adding

Section 29-1-101(m)  
Article 29- Human Relations  
Title 1- In General  
Baltimore County Code 2003

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.  
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

BY adding

Section 29-2-104(e)  
Article 29 - Human Relations  
Title 2 - Prohibited Practices  
Baltimore County Code 2003

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Sections 29-2-101(b), 29-2-102(c), and 29-2-204(d)  
Article 29 - Human Relations  
Title 2 - Prohibited Practices  
Baltimore County Code 2003

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE  
2 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Baltimore County read as follows:

3 Article 29. Human Relations.

4 Title 1. In General.

5 § 29-1-101. Definitions.

6 (d) Discrimination. “Discrimination” means acting or failing to act or unduly delaying an  
7 action regarding a person because of the person’s race, creed, religion, color, sex, age, national  
8 origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, STATUS AS A VETERAN,  
9 or physical or mental disability, in a way that the person is adversely affected in areas of:

- 10 (1) Housing;  
11 (2) Employment;  
12 (3) Education;  
13 (4) Public accommodation; or

1 (5) Financing

2 (M) VETERAN. "VETERAN" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS:

3 (1) A FORMER MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES WHO  
4 WAS DISCHARGED FROM ACTIVE DUTY UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OTHER THAN  
5 DISHONORABLE;

6 (2) A MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD; OR

7 (3) A MEMBER OF A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE  
8 UNITED STATES.

9 Title 2. Prohibited Practices.

10 §29-2-101. Definitions.

11 (b) Discriminatory restrictive covenant. "Discriminatory restrictive covenant" means a  
12 specification limiting the transfer or rental of a dwelling because of the person's race, creed, religion,  
13 color, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression,  
14 STATUS AS A VETERAN, or physical or mental disability.

15 §29-2-102. Prohibitions.

16 (c) Property values; change in nature of neighborhood. Whether the person is acting for  
17 monetary gain or not, a person may not engage in discrimination by representing that the existing  
18 or potential proximity of real property owned, used, or occupied by persons of a particular race,  
19 creed, religion, physical or mental disability, color, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation,  
20 gender identity or expression, STATUS AS A VETERAN, or marital status may result in:

1 (1) The lowering of property values;

2 (2) A change in the racial, religious, or ethnic character of the block, neighborhood,  
3 or area in which the property is located; or

4 (3) A decline in quality of the schools and institutions serving the area.

5 § 29-2-104. Exceptions.

6 (E) THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT PROHIBIT A PERSON FROM PROVIDING PREFERENCES  
7 IN THE SALE, RENTAL OR OCCUPANCY OF DWELLINGS OR OTHER FACILITIES TO A  
8 VETERAN AND THE HOUSEHOLD OF WHICH THE VETERAN IS A MEMBER, TO THE  
9 EXTENT AUTHORIZED BY STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.

10 §29-2-204. Exceptions.

11 (d) Preferential treatment. An employer, employment agency, labor organization, or joint  
12 labor-management committee may not be required to grant preferential treatment to a person because  
13 of an imbalance, compared to the general public, in the percentage or total number of people with  
14 the following characteristics employed, referred for employment, classified, admitted for  
15 membership, or admitted to apprenticeship or training programs:

16 (1) Race;

17 (2) Creed;

18 (3) Religion;

19 (4) Physical or mental disability;

20 (5) Color;

- 1 (6) Sex;
- 2 (7) National Origin;
- 3 (8) Age;
- 4 (9) sexual orientation;
- 5 (10) gender identity or expression; [or]
- 6 (11) STATUS AS A VETERAN; OR
- 7 [11] (12) Marital status.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act shall take effect forty-five  
9 (45) days after its enactment.