

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, of a total population of 246 million in the United States, there are more than 40 million people with physical and mental disabilities, one-sixth of our population; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress on July 26, 1990 passed P.L. 101-336 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and

WHEREAS, on average, people with disabilities have less education, less income, fewer job opportunities and less social contact than those without disabilities; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of 1990, 8.2 million working-age adults with disabilities who wanted to work were unemployed; and

WHEREAS, a number of organizations in St. Mary's County provide a variety of services for the disabled; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to coordinate the services currently provided, identify gaps in services, and expand opportunities to increase the acceptance, dignity and participation of individuals living with some form of disability.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of St. Mary's County, Maryland hereby resolve to establish a Commission for the Disabled;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

(1) The Commission for the Disabled shall consist of at least nine members, who shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. In addition to two citizens at large, the members of the Commission shall include one representative from each of the following organizations: St. Mary's Association for Retarded Citizens, St. Mary's County Developmental Center, St. Mary's Freedom Landing, St. Mary's County Health Department, Office on Aging, Department of Social Services, and Human Relations Commission.

(2) The members of the Commission shall serve for four years, except as provided in this section, and are limited to two consecutive terms. Of those first appointed, the County Commissioners shall stagger the appointment of new members for periods of one, two, and three years. They shall serve without compensation.

(3) The Commission shall select from its membership a Chairman, and Vice-Chairman to serve a term of one year and to be eligible for re-election.

(4) Upon the death, disability, resignation or removal of any member of the Commission, the County Commissioners shall appoint a person to serve for the unexpired term.

(5) The Commission has the power to establish and appoint advisory groups and committees to assist in its program of activity of which membership is not restricted solely to members of the Commission.

(6) The Commission shall meet at least quarterly.

(7) The Commission shall adopt rules and regulations as it may deem necessary to govern its procedure and business, subject to the approval of the Board of County Commissioners.

(8) A majority of officially appointed members constitute a quorum.

(9) The Office of Community Services shall serve as staff to the Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

1. The Purpose of the Commission is to increase acceptance and full participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of county life.

2. The Responsibilities of the Commission include:

- Assuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and all other federal and state laws and regulations.
- Developing a program of public education to improve attitudes toward persons with disabilities.
- Serving as an official advocate for the disabled to expand educational and employment opportunities; to address transportation needs; to expand participation in recreational, social, religious and cultural activities; and to eliminate barriers at public buildings.

APPROVED THIS DATE: 4/16/91

EFFECTIVE THIS DATE: 4/16/91

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

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W. Edward Bailey, Commissioner

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Barbara R. Thompson, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Edward V. Cox
Edward V. Cox, County Administrator

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Joseph R. Densford
Joseph R. Densford, County Attorney