

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Joint Resolution 4 (Senator Garagiola)

Finance

Rules and Executive Nominations

---

**Veterans Health Care Budget Reform**

---

This joint resolution urges the Maryland Congressional Delegation and all members of Congress to support legislation for budget reform to allow assured funding for veterans healthcare programs.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Compliance with this joint resolution would not directly affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Background:** The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a number of programs and services to the nation's 24 million veterans. In 2005, approximately 5.3 million people were treated in VA healthcare facilities. As of December 2006, the department operated 156 hospitals, 876 ambulatory care and community-based outpatient facilities, 207 Veteran Centers, 136 nursing homes, 45 residential rehabilitation treatment programs, and 92 comprehensive home care programs.

During fiscal 2005, VA facilities in Maryland had 7,566 inpatient admissions and provided care for 575,278 outpatient visits.

There is currently legislation before Congress containing provisions requiring assured funding for veterans healthcare. Among other provisions, the *Bring the Troops Home and Iraq Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2007* (H.R. 508), requires the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury to make the fiscal 2008 funding for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) equal to 130% of those funds provided to the VHA in fiscal 2006. The legislation contains provisions allowing for future-year adjustments.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Library of Congress, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 4, 2007  
ncs/jr

---

Analysis by: Joshua A. Watters

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510