HOUSE BILL 1343

P1 4lr2029
CF SB 969

By: **Delegates Fisher, Arentz, Aumann, Bates, Beitzel, Bobo, Bromwell, Burns, Cluster, Costa, DeBoy, Dwyer, Eckardt, Elliott, Frank, Gaines, George, Glass, Glenn, Haddaway–Riccio, Harper, Hubbard, Impallaria, Jacobs, Kach, K. Kelly, Kipke, Krebs, Love, McComas, McConkey, McDermott, McDonough, Minnick, Murphy, Myers, Nathan–Pulliam, Oaks, Ready, Schuh, Schulz, Serafini, Stein, Stocksdale, Stukes, Szeliga, V. Turner, Vaughn, and Vitale**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2014
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Department of Veterans Affairs – Opioids Time Lock Dispenser Pilot Program

FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a certain opioids time lock dispenser pilot program; requiring the Secretary to adopt certain regulations to implement the pilot program; authorizing the regulations to include any other provisions necessary to carry out the pilot program; prohibiting the regulations from requiring a veteran to pay a fee in order to get a time lock dispenser; requiring the Secretary annually to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the progress of the pilot program; defining a certain term; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the opioids time lock dispenser pilot program.

BY adding to
Article – State Government
Section 9–949 to be under the new part "Part VII. Opioids Time Lock Dispenser Pilot Program"
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The number of prescriptions for narcotics given to veterans has dramatically increased; and

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
[Brackets**]** indicate matter deleted from existing law.

WHEREAS, Prescription drug abuse also has dramatically increased among veterans; and

WHEREAS, Veterans die of accidental overdoses at a higher rate than nonveterans; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – State Government

9–947. RESERVED.

9–948. RESERVED.

PART VII. OPIOIDS TIME LOCK DISPENSER PILOT PROGRAM.

9–949.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, "TIME LOCK DISPENSER" MEANS A DEVICE THAT IS PROGRAMMED TO DISPENSE MEDICATION ON A SCHEDULE.

(B) THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH A 3–YEAR OPIOIDS TIME LOCK DISPENSER PILOT PROGRAM UNDER WHICH THE DEPARTMENT:

(1) PROVIDES TIME LOCK DISPENSERS TO VETERANS IN THE STATE WHO ARE PRESCRIBED OPIOIDS; AND

(2) STUDIES THE EFFECT OF THE USE OF THE TIME LOCK DISPENSERS ON THE RATE OF VETERANS IN THE STATE WHO OVERDOSE ON OPIOIDS.

(C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING REGULATIONS THAT:

(I) ESTABLISH THE QUALIFICATIONS A VETERAN SHALL HAVE TO RECEIVE A TIME LOCK DISPENSER; AND

(II) REQUIRE A VETERAN TO RETURN A TIME LOCK DISPENSER.

(2) THE REGULATIONS MAY INCLUDE ANY OTHER PROVISIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(3) THE REGULATIONS MAY NOT REQUIRE A VETERAN TO PAY A FEE TO RECEIVE A TIME LOCK DISPENSER.

(D) THE SECRETARY ANNUALLY SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1246 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of September 30, 2018, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.