HOUSE BILL 1118

P1 EMERGENCY BILL 5lr2915
CF SB 80

By: **Delegates C. Wilson, Barron, Morgan, Valderrama, Walker, and A. Washington**
Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2015
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

FOR the purpose of establishing a certain day as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in recognition of the service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

BY renumbering
Article – General Provisions
Section 7–402 through 7–413, respectively
to be Section 7–403 through 7–414, respectively
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Volume)

BY adding to
Article – General Provisions
Section 7–402
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The Vietnam War was fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and involved North Vietnam and the Viet Cong in conflict with United States armed forces, allies of the United States, and South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, more than 129,000 members of the United States armed forces were serving in Vietnam, reaching a peak of approximately 543,000 by 1969; and

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

WHEREAS, On January 27, 1973, an agreement was reached to end the war and, on March 30, 1973, the United States armed forces completed its withdrawal of combat troops; and

WHEREAS, More than 58,000 members of the United States armed forces, including 1,014 from the State of Maryland, lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members were wounded; and

WHEREAS, Members of the United States armed forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were caught on their return home in the crossfire of an extremely divisive public debate about the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War, which deprived many of those members of public support and appreciation of their patriotic service; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the United States armed forces who died or were declared missing–in–action in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, The designation of a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" is an appropriate way for the State to thank and honor its members of the United States armed forces for their service and sacrifice during the Vietnam War; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7–402 through 7–413, respectively, of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–403 through 7–414, respectively.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – General Provisions

7–402.

MARCH 30 SHALL BE WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF VIETNAM VETERANS.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.