

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 341

(Senator Griffith, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

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Department of Veterans Affairs - Homes for Veterans - Veterans of Uniformed  
Service

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This bill expands eligibility to reside at a veterans home supervised by the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to include a veteran who has an honorable discharge from *active service with a uniformed service of the United States* (rather than from the armed forces). **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances, as discussed below.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** Under federal law, there are eight uniformed services: (1) U.S. Army; (2) U.S. Marine Corps; (3) U.S. Navy; (4) U.S. Air Force; (5) U.S. Coast Guard; (6) Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service; (7) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps; and (8) U.S. Space Force.

MDVA currently supervises one veterans home, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) in St. Mary's County. Managed by a contractor, the facility includes a 168-bed assisted living unit and a 286-bed skilled nursing unit. The facility is Medicare and Medicaid certified and is inspected annually. All veterans receive a per diem subsidy

(\$112.36 per day for nursing home care or \$48.50 per day for assisted living care) from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to subsidize their cost of care.

**State Fiscal Effect:** As the bill expands eligibility for residency at CHVH to a likely limited number of eligible individuals in the State and the 2019 average occupancy rate at CHVH was 89%, it is assumed that the bill has a minimal operational impact on MDVA. MDVA advises that the bill's requirements can be implemented with existing resources.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 12 (Delegate Rogers, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

**Information Source(s):** U.S. Department of Defense; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 27, 2020  
rh/jc Third Reader - March 14, 2020  
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