

SENATE BILL 96

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6lr0728

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Simonaire**

Requested: August 22, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for**
3 **Service Members and Veterans – Terminology – Active Service Members**

4 FOR the purpose of altering certain terminology used in the Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral
5 Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans that
6 refers to active service members to refer to service members; and generally relating
7 to the Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for
8 Service Members and Veterans.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Health – General
11 Section 7.5–210(a), (b), and (e)(1)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Health – General**

17 7.5–210.

18 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

19 (2) “Eligible individual” means:

20 (i) [An active] **A** service member;

21 (ii) A veteran;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(iii) The spouse of [an active] A service member or veteran;

(iv) A child of [an active] A service member or veteran; or

(v) A stepchild of [an active] A service member or veteran.

(3) “Program” means the Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans.

(b) (1) There is a Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans.

(2) The purpose of the Program is to provide funds to local nonprofit organizations to establish and expand community behavioral health programs to serve [active] service members, veterans, and their families.

(e) (1) To be eligible for a grant from the Program, a nonprofit organization must have a mission to:

(i) Provide behavioral health services; or

(ii) Provide services to [active] service members, veterans, or their families.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.