

SENATE BILL 887

E4, P1

4lr0907

By: **Senators Folden and Gile**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Veterans Affairs – Responses to Arrested Veterans and Veterans in Crisis**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to coordinate with State
4 and local law enforcement agencies to establish a process by which the Department
5 and the First Responders Action Group shall receive certain information about a
6 veteran who was arrested; requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget
7 bill a certain appropriation to the Maryland Police and Correctional Training
8 Commissions; requiring the Commissions, in consultation with the Department, to
9 assess and develop first response practices to veterans in crisis, establish or update
10 a data collection process for crises involving veterans, and develop and conduct
11 training plans for first responders responding to veterans in crisis; and generally
12 relating to information and assistance to veterans who are arrested or who are in
13 crisis situations.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – State Government
16 Section 9–901(c)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article – State Government
21 Section 9–905.2
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

24 BY adding to
25 Article – Public Safety
26 Section 3–531
27 Annotated Code of Maryland
28 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – State Government**

4 9–901.

5 (c) “Department” means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

6 **9–905.2.**

7 **(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COORDINATE WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAW**
8 **ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS BY WHICH:**

9 **(1) AN ARRESTED INDIVIDUAL MAY PROVIDE THE INDIVIDUAL’S**
10 **STATUS AS A VETERAN TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY; AND**

11 **(2) WITHIN 24 HOURS OR AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER A**
12 **VETERAN’S ARREST, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL PROVIDE TO THE**
13 **DEPARTMENT AND THE FIRST RESPONDERS ACTION GROUP, A NONPROFIT**
14 **ORGANIZATION INCORPORATED IN NORTH CAROLINA, THE NAME AND CONTACT**
15 **INFORMATION OF THE VETERAN WHO WAS ARRESTED.**

16 **(B) ON RECEIPT OF THE NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF A VETERAN**
17 **WHO HAS BEEN ARRESTED, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INFORM THE VETERAN OF**
18 **SERVICES PROVIDED BY:**

19 **(1) THE DEPARTMENT;**

20 **(2) THE FIRST RESPONDERS ACTION GROUP, A NONPROFIT**
21 **ORGANIZATION INCORPORATED IN NORTH CAROLINA; AND**

22 **(3) OTHER NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS THAT SERVE**
23 **VETERANS.**

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

26 **Article – Public Safety**

27 **3–531.**

28 **(A) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE**

1 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF
2 \$2,000,000 TO THE MARYLAND POLICE AND CORRECTIONAL TRAINING
3 COMMISSIONS.

4 (B) THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION
5 MAY BE USED ONLY TO FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS OR AUTHORIZATIONS
6 PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION.

7 (C) THE MARYLAND POLICE AND CORRECTIONAL TRAINING
8 COMMISSIONS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,
9 SHALL:

10 (1) PARTNER WITH NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND UNITS OF
11 FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO ASSESS AND DEVELOP FIRST
12 RESPONSE PRACTICES TO VETERANS IN CRISIS;

13 (2) ESTABLISH OR UPDATE A STATEWIDE DATA COLLECTION
14 PROCESS FOR CRISES INVOLVING VETERANS;

15 (3) EDUCATE FIRST RESPONDERS, CRISIS RESPONSE STAFF, AND
16 OTHER RELEVANT INDIVIDUALS ABOUT:

17 (I) CRISIS INTERVENTION METHODS TAILORED TO MEET THE
18 NEEDS OF VETERANS;

19 (II) SUICIDE PREVENTION METHODS TAILORED TO MEET THE
20 NEEDS OF VETERANS; AND

21 (III) RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
22 VETERANS AFFAIRS AND THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS;

23 (4) DEVELOP AND CONDUCT DATA-INFORMED STATEWIDE TRAINING
24 PLANS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS RESPONDING TO VETERANS IN CRISIS;

25 (5) ENSURE STATE, COUNTY, AND LOCAL PARTNERS ARE
26 CONDUCTING TRAINING PLANS;

27 (6) EVALUATE THE AVAILABILITY AND BEST ALLOCATION OF
28 RESOURCES TO SUPPORT DATA COLLECTION AND TRAINING IMPLEMENTATION; AND

29 (7) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN
30 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE SENATE
31 JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ON:

1 **(I) THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DATA COLLECTION PROCESS**
2 **AND TRAINING PLANS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND**

3 **(II) THE FEASIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE DATA COLLECTION**
4 **PROCESS AND TRAINING PLANS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

5 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take
6 effect July 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June
7 30, 2028, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
8 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

9 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section
10 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.