

SENATE BILL 969

P1

4lr3104
CF 4lr2029

By: **Senators Middleton, Kittleman, and Miller**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2014

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Veterans Affairs – Opioid Time Lock Dispenser Pilot Program**

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

12 BY adding to

13 Article – State Government

14 Section 9–949 to be under the new part “Part VII. Opioid Time Lock Dispenser
15 Pilot Program”

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

18 Preamble

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

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

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

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
2 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – State Government**

4 **9–947. RESERVED.**

5 **9–948. RESERVED.**

6 **PART VII. OPIOID TIME LOCK DISPENSER PILOT PROGRAM.**

7 **9–949.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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