

SENATE BILL 80

P1

5lr1092

By: **Senator Astle**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans**
3 **Day**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a certain day as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in
5 recognition of the service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans; and generally relating
6 to Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

7 BY renumbering

8 Article – General Provisions

9 Section 7–402 through 7–413, respectively

10 to be Section 7–403 through 7–414, respectively

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2014 Volume)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – General Provisions

15 Section 7–402

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2014 Volume)

18 Preamble

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

22 WHEREAS, In 1965, more than 129,000 members of the United States armed forces
23 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.



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

4 WHEREAS, More than 58,000 members of the United States armed forces, including
5 1,014 from the State of Maryland, lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000
6 members were wounded; and

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

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

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

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

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

24 **Article – General Provisions**

25 **7-402.**

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

28 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2015.