

# SENATE BILL 656

P1, J1

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CF HB 874

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By: **Senator Salling**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2021

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 22, 2021

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Veterans Trust Fund – CAM for Veterans Grant Program –**  
3 **Established**  
4 **(David Perez Military Heroes Act (End 22 a Day))**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing the CAM for Veterans Grant Program; providing for the  
6 purpose of the Program; requiring the Maryland Veterans Trust to implement and  
7 administer the Program; requiring the Trust to expend money from the Maryland  
8 Veterans Trust Fund to provide grants for the Program; requiring the Secretary of  
9 Veterans Affairs to adopt certain regulations; and generally relating to the CAM for  
10 Veterans Program and the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
12 Article – State Government  
13 Section 9–913  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article – State Government  
18 Section 9–914.2  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

21 BY adding to  
22 Article – State Government

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Section 9–914.4  
2 Annotated Code of Maryland  
3 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

4 Preamble

5 WHEREAS, David Perez was a resident of Frederick County, Maryland, and a  
6 veteran of the U.S. Army who served in Iraq from 2005 to 2006, whose passion in life was  
7 helping others; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Perez was known for his enthusiasm, drive, and energy in helping  
9 people in his community, including veterans living with post–traumatic stress disorder and  
10 other mental illnesses, to create more support systems and assistance; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Perez’s life was taken far too soon and he deserves to be honored for  
12 his compassion and commitment to the service of others, especially fellow veterans; now,  
13 therefore,

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

16 **Article – State Government**

17 9–913.

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

19 (b) “Board” means the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Veterans Trust.

20 (c) “Fund” means the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

21 (d) “Trust” means the Maryland Veterans Trust.

22 (e) (1) There is a Maryland Veterans Trust established for the purpose of  
23 providing monetary and other assistance to:

24 (i) veterans and their families; and

25 (ii) public and private programs that support veterans and their  
26 families.

27 (2) There is a Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

28 (f) The Trust shall be a body corporate and shall have perpetual existence,  
29 subject to modification or termination by the General Assembly if necessary to effectuate  
30 its purpose or if its substantial purpose ceases to exist.

1 (g) The Fund consists of:

2 (1) gifts and grants that the Trust receives under § 9–914.2(a)(1) of this  
3 subtitle; and

4 (2) contributions to the Fund from:

5 (i) the sale of tickets from instant ticket lottery machines under §  
6 9–112(d) of this title;

7 (ii) the donations from video lottery facility players under §  
8 9–1A–04(d)(19) of this title; and

9 (iii) the designated fees from special registration plates for recipients  
10 of an individually earned, combat–related armed forces medal under § 13–619.1 of the  
11 Transportation Article.

12 (h) Money in the Fund may only be used to:

13 (1) make grants and loans under § 9–914.2(a)(3) of this subtitle;

14 (2) be invested under § 9–914.3(b) of this subtitle; and

15 (3) pay the costs of administering the Fund through distribution to an  
16 administrative cost account in the Department.

17 (i) Money expended from the Fund is not intended to take the place of funding  
18 that would otherwise be appropriated to the Department.

19 9–914.2.

20 (a) The Trust shall have the powers and duties to:

21 (1) solicit and accept any gift, grant, legacy, or endowment of money from  
22 the federal government, State government, local government, or any private source in  
23 furtherance of the Trust;

24 (2) maintain the Fund, which shall consist of any gift, grant, legacy, or  
25 endowment provided to the Trust under item (1) of this subsection;

26 (3) expend money from the Fund to provide grants or loans [to]:

27 (i) **TO** veterans and their families;

28 (ii) **TO** public and private programs that support veterans and their  
29 families; [or]

1 (III) UNDER THE CAM FOR VETERANS GRANT PROGRAM UNDER  
2 § 9-914.4 OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR

3 [(iii)] (IV) TO any other programs that the Trust considers to be  
4 within the purpose for which the Trust is established;

5 (4) develop projects for sponsorship by corporate and business  
6 organizations or private individuals;

7 (5) make, execute, and enter into any contract or other legal instrument;

8 (6) receive appropriations as provided in the State budget;

9 (7) acquire, hold, use, improve, and convey property;

10 (8) lease and maintain an office at a place within the State that the Trust  
11 designates;

12 (9) adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its  
13 business;

14 (10) take any other action necessary to carry out the purposes of the Trust;

15 (11) sue and be sued, but only to enforce contractual or similar agreements  
16 with the Trust; and

17 (12) submit a report on or before August 31 of each year to the Governor  
18 and, subject to § 2-1257 of this article, to the General Assembly, with recommendations or  
19 requests deemed appropriate to further the purposes of the Trust, and a description of the  
20 activities of the Trust during the preceding year, including:

21 (i) the gross amount of gifts and grants credited to the Trust;

22 (ii) the costs of administration of the Trust; and

23 (iii) a detailed accounting of the use of the Trust.

24 (b) The Trust may carry out its corporate purposes without obtaining the consent  
25 of any department, board, or agency of the State.

26 (c) In exercising its powers, the Trust is exempt from the provisions of Division  
27 II of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

28 **9-914.4.**

29 (A) **THERE IS A CAM FOR VETERANS GRANT PROGRAM.**

1           **(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO VETERANS**  
2 **SUFFERING FROM POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, OR**  
3 **STRESS SEEKING RELIEF THROUGH AND NEEDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO**  
4 **OBTAIN COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICAL TREATMENTS.**

5           **(C) THE TRUST SHALL IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM IN**  
6 **ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.**

7           **(D) THE TRUST SHALL EXPEND MONEY FROM THE FUND UNDER § 9-913 OF**  
8 **THIS SUBTITLE TO PROVIDE GRANTS FOR THE PROGRAM.**

9           **(E) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE**  
10 **REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING:**

11                   **(1) APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESSES; AND**

12                   **(2) ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS.**

13           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
14 October 1, 2021.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.