

# SENATE BILL 554

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CF HB 553

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By: **The President (By Request – Administration) and Senators Jackson, Bailey, Beidle, Benson, Brooks, Carozza, Corderman, Elfreth, Ellis, Gallion, Gile, Hershey, Hester, Hettleman, James, Jennings, King, Klausmeier, McKay, Muse, Ready, Rosapepe, Salling, Smith, Waldstreicher, M. Washington, and West**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland National Guard – Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program –**  
3 **Establishment**  
4 **(Health Care for Heroes Act of 2023)**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing the Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program in the  
6 Military Department for the Department to award grants to reimburse certain  
7 members of the National Guard for the cost of premiums for certain health care and  
8 dental care plans; requiring the Department to adopt regulations to administer and  
9 implement the Program; and generally relating to the Tricare Premium  
10 Reimbursement Program.

11 BY adding to  
12 Article – Public Safety  
13 Section 13–411  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2022 Replacement Volume)

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

18 **Article – Public Safety**

19 **13–411.**

20 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO**  
21 **IS:**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(1) ELIGIBLE FOR TRICARE RESERVE SELECT COVERAGE; AND**

2           **(2) A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.**

3           **(B) THERE IS A TRICARE PREMIUM REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM IN THE**  
4 **DEPARTMENT.**

5           **(C) THE DEPARTMENT MAY AWARD GRANTS TO AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT**  
6 **WHO MEETS THE REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ANY OF THE**  
7 **FOLLOWING:**

8           **(1) A PREMIUM PAID FOR INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE THROUGH THE**  
9 **TRICARE RESERVE SELECT PROGRAM;**

10           **(2) A PREMIUM PAID FOR ANY MEMBER OF THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY**  
11 **OF AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT COVERED UNDER THE TRICARE RESERVE SELECT**  
12 **PROGRAM;**

13           **(3) A PREMIUM PAID FOR INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE UNDER THE**  
14 **TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM; OR**

15           **(4) A PREMIUM PAID FOR ANY MEMBER OF THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY**  
16 **OF AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT RECEIVING DENTAL BENEFITS UNDER THE TRICARE**  
17 **DENTAL PROGRAM.**

18           **(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AND**  
19 **ADMINISTER THE TRICARE PREMIUM REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED**  
20 **UNDER THIS SECTION.**

21           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
22 1, 2023.