

# SENATE BILL 910

P1

3lr2950

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By: **Senator Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2023

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Education, Energy, and the Environment, February 24, 2023

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2023

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program – Definitions – Therapy Horse**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of a “therapy horse” under the Maryland  
4 Veterans Service Animal Program; and generally relating to the Maryland Veterans  
5 Service Animal Program.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article – State Government  
8 Section 9–957(a)(1), (b), and (c)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – State Government  
13 Section 9–957(a)(10)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – State Government**

19 9–957.

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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 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

2 (10) "Therapy horse" includes a horse determined appropriate for  
3 interactions with veterans by a stable licensed by the State that:

4 (i) is a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship,  
5 International (PATH, Intl.) [premier accredited] member center; or

6 (ii) has Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association  
7 (EAGALA) certified professionals who provide services to veterans.

8 (b) There is a Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program in the Department.

9 (c) The purposes of the Program are to:

10 (1) refer eligible veterans who inquire about participation in the Program  
11 to one or more nonprofit training entities;

12 (2) provide additional funding mechanisms to assist veterans participating  
13 in the Program;

14 (3) encourage successful Program participants to assist in outreach and  
15 referral of other eligible veterans who could benefit from participation in the Program;

16 (4) assist in the reduction of the Maryland veteran suicide rate; and

17 (5) identify potential capital projects and services to facilitate more  
18 services for veterans in the State.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 October 1, 2023.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.