

SENATE BILL 910

P1

3lr2950

By: **Senator Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2023

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

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.

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

21 (10) “Therapy horse” includes a horse determined appropriate for
22 interactions with veterans by a stable licensed by the State that:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

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

9 (2) provide additional funding mechanisms to assist veterans participating
10 in the Program;

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

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

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

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