

SENATE BILL 615

P1

4lr2927

By: **Senators Simonaire, Ready, Salling, Jennings, Lam, Hershey, Hester, Gallion, Folden, Augustine, McKay, Jackson, Lewis Young, and Brooks**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Maryland Veterans Suicide**
3 **Awareness Day**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to annually proclaim a certain day as Maryland
5 Veterans Suicide Awareness Day.

6 BY renumbering

7 Article – General Provisions

8 Section 7–416 through 7–420

9 to be Section 7–417 through 7–421, respectively

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY adding to

13 Article – General Provisions

14 Section 7–416

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 Preamble

18 WHEREAS, Too many veterans’ lives are lost to suicide; and

19 WHEREAS, Family members, veterans, service members, and others need to take
20 action when they believe a veteran is at risk of suicide; and

21 WHEREAS, There needs to be greater awareness of veteran suicide and the tools
22 available to help veterans; now, therefore,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
2 That Section(s) 7–416 through 7–420 of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code
3 of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–417 through 7–421, respectively.

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

6 **Article – General Provisions**

7 **7–416.**

8 **(A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM JULY 11 AS MARYLAND**
9 **VETERANS SUICIDE AWARENESS DAY.**

10 **(B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL DECLARE MARYLAND VETERANS SUICIDE**
11 **AWARENESS DAY:**

12 **(1) A DAY OF REFLECTION, RECOLLECTION, AND DETERMINATION**
13 **FOR MARYLAND VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS, FAMILY MEMBERS, AND ALL**
14 **MARYLANDERS TO REMEMBER THE HUMAN TRAGEDY THAT IS ASSOCIATED WITH**
15 **VETERAN SUICIDE; AND**

16 **(2) A PLEDGE TO OUR VETERAN COMMUNITY TO:**

17 **(I) WORK TO DESTIGMATIZE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT;**

18 **(II) CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WITH MENTAL**
19 **HEALTH ISSUES TO SPEAK FREELY AND GET THE SUPPORT THEY NEED; AND**

20 **(III) ENCOURAGE VETERANS TO REACH OUT FOR HELP.**

21 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
22 1, 2024.