

Chapter 805

**(Senate Bill 615)**

AN ACT concerning

**General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Maryland Veterans Suicide  
~~Awareness~~ Prevention Day**

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

BY renumbering

Article – General Provisions  
Section 7–416 through 7–420  
to be Section 7–417 through 7–421, respectively  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – General Provisions  
Section 7–416  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

**Article – General Provisions**

**7–416.**

**(A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM ~~JULY 11~~ SEPTEMBER 30 AS MARYLAND VETERANS SUICIDE ~~AWARENESS~~ PREVENTION DAY.**

**(B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL DECLARE MARYLAND VETERANS SUICIDE ~~AWARENESS~~ PREVENTION DAY:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2024.**