

SENATE BILL 277

P1, J1, J2

5lr0620
CF 5lr2499

By: **Senators Simonaire, Salling, Jennings, Gallion, Mautz, and Bailey**

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2025

Assigned to: Finance and Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Equality for Service Members Act**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing rules of interpretation related to the uniformed services;
4 altering the rule of interpretation for “veteran”; altering the application of certain
5 provisions of law governing public health, the regulation of health occupations, and
6 housing vouchers and assistance to apply to all uniformed services, rather than only
7 the armed forces; and generally relating to veterans and uniformed services.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – General Provisions

10 Section 1–101.1, 1–101.2, 1–103.1, 1–114.1, 1–114.2, and 1–116

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – General Provisions

15 Section 1–117

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

19 Article – Health – General

20 Section 1–101(a), 4–217(c)(1), 7.5–210(c) and (d), 19–114(a), 20–105(a)(1), and
21 24–2101(a)

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

24 BY adding to

25 Article – Health – General

26 Section 1–101(a–1), (k–1), (m), and (n)

27 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

2 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
3 Article – Health – General
4 Section 4–217(c)(6)(i), 4–402, 5–509(a)(2)(i), 7–404.1, 7.5–210(a), (b), and (e)(1),
5 13–2701, 13–2702, 13–2703, 15–134.1, 15–154, 19–114(d)(2)(iii)2., and
6 20–105(a)(4)(vi) and (d)
7 Annotated Code of Maryland
8 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

9 BY repealing
10 Article – Health – General
11 Section 24–2101(d)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – Health Occupations
16 Section 1–101(a)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article – Health Occupations
21 Section 1–101(a–1), (a–2), (l), and (m)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
25 Article – Health Occupations
26 Section 1–701, 1–702, 1–703, 1–704, 1–705, 2–4A–14(10), 7–314(g), 7–410(a)(2)(i),
27 8–6B–18(a)(7), 11–305(c)(2)(ii), 13–316(10), 14–302(2)(iii)4., 14–404(a)(21),
28 14–5A–17(a)(17), 14–5B–14(a)(17), 14–5C–17(a)(18), 14–5D–11.4(b)(1)(iii),
29 14–5D–14(a)(17), 14–5E–16(a)(18), 14–5G–18(a)(19), 15–314(a)(21),
30 16–311(a)(21), 17–6A–19(10), and 18–313(11)
31 Annotated Code of Maryland
32 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

33 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
34 Article – Health Occupations
35 Section 1–802(a)(2)
36 Annotated Code of Maryland
37 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)
38 (As enacted by Chapters 11 and 12 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2024)

39 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
40 Article – Housing and Community Development

1 Section 1–101(a)
 2 Annotated Code of Maryland
 3 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

4 BY adding to
 5 Article – Housing and Community Development
 6 Section 1–101(k)
 7 Annotated Code of Maryland
 8 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 10 Article – Housing and Community Development
 11 Section 4–2906
 12 Annotated Code of Maryland
 13 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 15 Article – State Government
 16 Section 9–901
 17 Annotated Code of Maryland
 18 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – General Provisions**

22 **1–101.1.**

23 **“ACTIVE DUTY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9–901 OF THE STATE**
 24 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

25 **1–101.2.**

26 **“ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9–901 OF THE**
 27 **STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

28 **1–103.1.**

29 **“ARMED FORCES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9–901 OF THE STATE**
 30 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

31 **1–114.1.**

1 **“RESERVE COMPONENT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE**
2 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

3 1-114.2.

4 **“SERVICE MEMBER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE**
5 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

6 1-116.

7 **“UNIFORMED SERVICES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE**
8 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

9 1-117.

10 With respect to any State program of benefits, rights, or privileges applicable to a
11 veteran under this Code, “veteran” includes[, if the individual is eligible under 38 U.S.C. §
12 101, a member of the commissioned corps of:

13 (1) the Public Health Service; or

14 (2) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or its
15 predecessor, the Coast and Geodetic Survey] **AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MEETS THE**
16 **DEFINITION OF “VETERAN” UNDER § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

17 **Article – Health – General**

18 1-101.

19 (a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated.

20 **(A-1) “ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF**
21 **THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

22 **(K-1) “SERVICE MEMBER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE**
23 **STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

24 **(M) “UNIFORMED SERVICES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE**
25 **STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

26 **(N) “VETERAN” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE**
27 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

28 4-217.

1 (c) (1) Except as otherwise provided by law:

2 (i) The Department shall collect a \$12 fee:

3 1. For each certified or abridged copy of a fetal death,
4 marriage, or divorce verification certificate;

5 2. For a report that a search of the fetal death, marriage, or
6 divorce verification certificate files was made and the requested record is not on file;

7 3. For each change to a fetal death, marriage, or divorce
8 verification certificate made later than 1 year after the certificate has been registered with
9 the Department; or

10 4. To process an adoption, foreign adoption, or legitimation;

11 (ii) The Department shall collect a \$10 fee:

12 1. Except as provided in paragraph (6)(ii) of this subsection,
13 for each certified or abridged copy of a birth certificate;

14 2. For the first copy of a certified or abridged death certificate
15 issued in a single transaction;

16 3. For a report that a search of the birth or death certificate
17 files was made and the requested record is not on file; or

18 4. For each change to a birth or death certificate made later
19 than 1 year after the certificate has been registered with the Department; and

20 (iii) The Department shall collect a \$12 fee for each additional
21 certified or abridged copy of a death certificate provided concurrently with an initial
22 requested death certificate.

23 (6) (i) The Department may not collect a fee for a copy of a vital record
24 issued to:

25 1. A current or former member of the [armed forces of the
26 United States] **UNIFORMED SERVICES**; or

27 2. The surviving spouse or child of the member, if the copy
28 will be used in connection with a claim for a dependent or beneficiary of the member.

29 4-402.

1 On admission of a patient, a hospital, related institution, or mental health outpatient
2 clinic shall record on the medical record whether the patient is a veteran of the [United
3 States armed forces] **UNIFORMED SERVICES**.

4 5–509.

5 (a) (2) The person designated on a United States Department of Defense
6 Record of Emergency Data (DD Form 93), or its successor form, as the person authorized
7 to direct disposition may serve as the authorizing agent for a decedent, if the decedent:

8 (i) Died while serving in the [United States armed forces]
9 **UNIFORMED SERVICES**; and

10 7–404.1.

11 (a) In this section, “legal resident” means an individual who maintains the State
12 as the individual’s principal establishment, home of record, or permanent home and to
13 where, whenever absent due to [military] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** obligation, the
14 individual intends to return.

15 (b) A dependent of a legal resident of the State who is determined eligible to
16 receive services from the Administration under this title shall retain eligibility for the
17 services:

18 (1) Regardless of whether the legal resident leaves the State due to the
19 legal resident’s [military] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** assignment outside the State; and

20 (2) If the dependent is otherwise eligible for the services.

21 (c) If a dependent of a legal resident is on a waiting list for services to be provided
22 under this title, the Administration shall allow the dependent to remain on the waiting list
23 for services while the legal resident is outside the State due to the legal resident’s [military]
24 **UNIFORMED SERVICES** assignment outside the State.

25 (d) The Administration shall reinstate services provided under this title to a
26 dependent of a legal resident who resides with the legal resident while the legal resident is
27 outside the State due to the legal resident’s [military] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** assignment
28 outside the State:

29 (1) On the relocation of the dependent to the State; and

30 (2) If a request for services is made.

31 7.5–210.

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

1 (2) “Eligible individual” means:

2 (i) [A] AN ACTIVE service member;

3 (ii) A veteran;

4 (iii) The spouse of [a] AN ACTIVE service member or veteran;

5 (iv) A child of [a] AN ACTIVE service member or veteran; or

6 (v) A stepchild of [a] AN ACTIVE service member or veteran.

7 (3) “Program” means the Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services
8 Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans.

9 [(4) “Service member” means an individual who is an active duty member
10 of:

11 (i) The armed forces of the United States;

12 (ii) A reserve component of the armed forces of the United States; or

13 (iii) The National Guard of any state.

14 (5) “Veteran” means a former service member who was discharged from
15 active duty.]

16 (b) (1) There is a Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant
17 Program for Service Members and Veterans.

18 (2) The purpose of the Program is to provide funds to local nonprofit
19 organizations to establish and expand community behavioral health programs to serve
20 ACTIVE service members, veterans, and their families.

21 (c) The Department shall administer the Program.

22 (d) The Program shall award competitive matching grants to local nonprofit
23 organizations to establish and expand community behavioral health programs that:

24 (1) Serve the behavioral health needs of eligible individuals in the locality
25 served by the nonprofit organization;

26 (2) Meet national standards;

1 (3) Integrate the delivery of mental health and substance use treatment;
2 and

3 (4) Connect eligible individuals to appropriate community-based care in a
4 timely manner on discharge from the community behavioral health program.

5 (e) (1) To be eligible for a grant from the Program, a nonprofit organization
6 must have a mission to:

7 (i) Provide behavioral health services; or

8 (ii) Provide services to **ACTIVE** service members, veterans, or their
9 families.

10 13-2701.

11 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

12 (b) “Behavioral health services” means mental health services or alcohol and
13 substance abuse services.

14 (c) (1) “Crisis services” means temporary services designed to address and
15 stabilize a severe behavioral health problem and to avoid an emergency situation.

16 (2) “Crisis services” includes hotlines, in-home support, and residential
17 crisis services.

18 **(D) “ELIGIBLE VETERAN” MEANS A VETERAN WHO IS A MARYLAND**
19 **RESIDENT.**

20 **[(d)] (E)** “Maryland Defense Force” means the military force established under
21 § 13-501 of the Public Safety Article.

22 **[(e)] (F)** “Maryland National Guard” means the Maryland Army National Guard
23 and Maryland Air National Guard.

24 **[(f)] (G)** “Service coordination” means a service designed to coordinate and
25 provide assistance in obtaining access to behavioral health services.

26 **[(g)]** “Uniformed services” has the meaning stated in 10 U.S.C. § 101.

27 (h) “Veteran” means a Maryland resident who served on active duty in the
28 uniformed services of the United States, other than for training, and was discharged or
29 released under conditions other than dishonorable.]

1 [(i)] (H) “Web-based resource program” means an interactive web-based
2 communication medium that:

3 (1) Allows individuals to access comprehensive information, advocacy, and
4 other resources regarding public and private behavioral health services, crisis and
5 emergency services, and early intervention and prevention programs; and

6 (2) Enables the public and private health care communities to work
7 together to address the problems related to providing and obtaining access to behavioral
8 health services.

9 13-2702.

10 (a) Subject to the limitations of its budget, the Department:

11 (1) In collaboration with the United States Department of Veterans
12 Affairs, the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families, the Maryland
13 National Guard, and the Maryland Defense Force, shall provide behavioral health service
14 coordination for **ELIGIBLE** veterans in all geographic regions of the State to connect them
15 to behavioral health services, including mental health first aid described under §
16 13-2703(b) of this subtitle, which may be available through the United States Department
17 of Veterans Affairs;

18 (2) (i) Where behavioral health services are not yet available or
19 accessible through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, shall provide service
20 coordination for **ELIGIBLE** veterans in all geographic regions of the State to connect them
21 to behavioral health services, including mental health first aid described under §
22 13-2703(b) of this subtitle, which may be available through the Behavioral Health
23 Administration, until such federal services can be accessed and obtained; and

24 (ii) Shall provide behavioral health services through the Behavioral
25 Health Administration based on eligibility and medical necessity criteria established by
26 these administrations; and

27 (3) Shall provide **ELIGIBLE** veterans up-to-date information about
28 behavioral health services and resources through a web-based resource program.

29 (b) Subject to the limitations of its budget and in addition to the service
30 coordination provided under subsection (a) of this section, the Department shall provide or
31 fund certain behavioral health services for **ELIGIBLE** veterans who:

32 (1) Meet the eligibility and medical necessity criteria of the Behavioral
33 Health Administration; and

34 (2) Cannot obtain immediate access to behavioral health services through
35 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

1 (c) (1) The behavioral health services provided under subsection (b) of this
2 section may include:

3 (i) Crisis services in all geographic regions of the State; and

4 (ii) Short-term behavioral health services, where existing federal
5 and State behavioral health services are determined by the Department to be inadequate
6 or inaccessible.

7 (2) The short-term behavioral health services provided under paragraph
8 (1)(ii) of this subsection:

9 (i) Shall be available only until [a] AN **ELIGIBLE** veteran is able to
10 access and obtain adequate behavioral health services through the United States
11 Department of Veterans Affairs; and

12 (ii) May include:

- 13 1. Screening assessments;
- 14 2. Individual, family, and group therapy;
- 15 3. Substance abuse early intervention and detoxification
16 services; and
- 17 4. Substance abuse medication-assisted treatment.

18 (3) The Department shall seek reimbursement from the United States
19 Department of Veterans Affairs or other responsible public or private payer for any
20 behavioral health services provided under subsection (b) of this section.

21 (d) The Department shall account separately for funds used to provide behavioral
22 health services to **ELIGIBLE** veterans under subsection (b) of this section.

23 13-2703.

24 (a) The behavioral health services for which the Department provides service
25 coordination for **ELIGIBLE** veterans under this subtitle shall include mental health first
26 aid.

27 (b) Mental health first aid shall consist of training for **ELIGIBLE** veterans and
28 the immediate family members of **ELIGIBLE** veterans on how to identify and respond to
29 signs of mental illness and substance use disorders.

30 (c) Each entity teaching a mental health first aid course shall report to the
31 Department:

1 (1) The number of **ELIGIBLE** veterans who took the mental health first aid
2 course; and

3 (2) The number of family members of **ELIGIBLE** veterans who took the
4 mental health first aid course.

5 (d) On or before June 1 each year, beginning in 2023, if the Department received
6 a report under subsection (c) of this section in the immediately preceding year, the
7 Department shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State
8 Government Article, the General Assembly the following information for the immediately
9 preceding year:

10 (1) The total number of **ELIGIBLE** veterans in the State who took a mental
11 health first aid course;

12 (2) The total number of family members of **ELIGIBLE** veterans in the State
13 who took a mental health first aid course; and

14 (3) The total number of mental health first aid courses taught in the State,
15 reported by the entity that taught the mental health first aid course.

16 15–134.1.

17 (a) In this section, “legal resident” means an individual who maintains the State
18 as the individual’s principal establishment, home of record, or permanent home and to
19 where, whenever absent due to **[military] UNIFORMED SERVICES** obligation, the
20 individual intends to return.

21 (b) A dependent of a legal resident of the State who is determined eligible to
22 receive home– and community–based waiver services or other waiver services from the
23 Department under this title shall retain eligibility for the services:

24 (1) Regardless of whether the legal resident leaves the State due to the
25 legal resident’s **[military] UNIFORMED SERVICES** assignment outside the State; and

26 (2) If the dependent is otherwise eligible for the services.

27 (c) If a dependent of a legal resident is on a waiting list for home– and
28 community–based waiver services or other waiver services to be provided under this title,
29 the Department shall allow the dependent to remain on the waiting list for services while
30 the legal resident is outside the State due to the legal resident’s **[military] UNIFORMED**
31 **SERVICES** assignment outside the State.

32 (d) The Department shall reinstate services provided under this title to a
33 dependent who resides with the legal resident while the legal resident is outside the State
34 due to the legal resident’s **[military] UNIFORMED SERVICES** assignment outside the State:

1 (1) On the relocation of the dependent to the State; and

2 (2) If a request for services is made.

3 15–154.

4 (a) Unless the child’s family has requested that the child be removed, a child on
5 the registry for the Autism Waiver shall remain on the registry if the child’s family relocates
6 out of the State for [military service] **UNIFORMED SERVICES ASSIGNMENT**.

7 (b) If a child on the registry for the Autism Waiver becomes eligible for services
8 through the waiver while the child’s family is out of the State for [military service]
9 **UNIFORMED SERVICES ASSIGNMENT**, the child shall be eligible for services through the
10 waiver if the family relocates to the State.

11 19–114.

12 (a) In this Part II of this subtitle the following words have the meanings
13 indicated.

14 (d) (2) “Health care facility” does not include:

15 (iii) For the purpose of providing an exception to the requirement for
16 a certificate of need under § 19–120 of this subtitle, a facility to provide comprehensive care
17 that:

18 2. Restricts admissions to individuals who meet the
19 residency requirements established by the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military
20 Families and are:

21 A. Veterans [who were discharged or released from the
22 armed forces of the United States under honorable conditions];

23 B. Former members of a reserve component [of the armed
24 forces of the United States], **AS DEFINED IN § 9–901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**
25 **ARTICLE**; or

26 C. Nonveteran spouses of eligible veterans;

27 20–105.

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

29 (4) “Serious family hardship” means:

1 (vi) Assignment of a parent or legal guardian to active [military]
2 UNIFORMED SERVICES duty.

3 (d) The affidavit shall be in the following form:

4 (1) I, the undersigned, am over eighteen (18) years of age and competent to
5 testify to the facts and matters set forth herein.

6 (2) _____ (name of child), whose date of birth is _____,
7 is living with me because of the following serious family hardship (check each that is
8 applicable):

- 9 _____ Death of father/mother/legal guardian
- 10 _____ Serious illness of father/mother/legal guardian
- 11 _____ Drug addiction of father/mother/legal guardian
- 12 _____ Incarceration of father/mother/legal guardian
- 13 _____ Abandonment by father/mother/legal guardian
- 14 _____ Assignment of father/mother/legal guardian to active [military] UNIFORMED
15 SERVICES duty

16 (3) The name and last known address of the child's parent(s) or legal
17 guardian is:

18 _____
 19 _____
 20 _____

21 (4) My kinship relation to the child is _____

22 (5) My address is:

23 _____
 24 Street Apt. No.
 25 _____
 26 City State Zip Code

27 (6) I assumed informal kinship care of this child for 24 hours a day and 7
28 days a week on _____ (day/month/year).

29 (7) The name and address of the school that the child attends is:

30 _____
 31 _____

32 (8) I solemnly affirm under the penalties of perjury that the contents of the
33 foregoing are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

1 _____
 2 Signature of affiant
 3 _____
 4 (Day/month/year)

5 24–2101.

6 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

7 [(d) “Veteran” means a former member of the following entities who was
 8 discharged from active duty:

9 (1) The armed forces of the United States;

10 (2) A reserve component of the armed forces of the United States; or

11 (3) The National Guard of any state.]

12 **Article – Health Occupations**

13 1–101.

14 (a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated.

15 **(A–1) “ACTIVE DUTY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9–901 OF THE STATE**
 16 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

17 **(A–2) “ARMED FORCES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9–901 OF THE STATE**
 18 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

19 **(L) “UNIFORMED SERVICES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9–901 OF THE**
 20 **STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

21 **(M) “VETERAN” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9–901 OF THE STATE**
 22 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

23 1–701.

24 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

25 **(B) “ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**
 26 **9–901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

27 **(C) (1) “ELIGIBLE SPOUSE” MEANS THE SPOUSE OF AN ACTIVE SERVICE**
 28 **MEMBER OR ELIGIBLE VETERAN.**

1 **(2) “ELIGIBLE SPOUSE” INCLUDES A SURVIVING SPOUSE OF:**

2 **(I) AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN; OR**

3 **(II) AN ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER WHO DIED WITHIN 1 YEAR**
4 **BEFORE THE DATE ON WHICH THE APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE, CERTIFICATE, OR**
5 **REGISTRATION IS SUBMITTED.**

6 **(D) (1) “ELIGIBLE VETERAN” MEANS A VETERAN WHO WAS DISCHARGED**
7 **FROM ACTIVE DUTY WITHIN 1 YEAR BEFORE THE DATE ON WHICH THE APPLICATION**
8 **FOR A LICENSE, CERTIFICATE, OR REGISTRATION IS SUBMITTED.**

9 **(2) “ELIGIBLE VETERAN” DOES NOT INCLUDE A VETERAN WHO HAS**
10 **BEEN DISCHARGED FROM ACTIVE DUTY FOR MORE THAN 1 YEAR BEFORE THE**
11 **APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE, CERTIFICATE, OR REGISTRATION IS SUBMITTED.**

12 **[(b)] (E)** “Health occupations board” means a board authorized to issue a license,
13 certificate, or registration under this article.

14 **[(c) (1)** “Military spouse” means the spouse of a service member or veteran.

15 **(2)** “Military spouse” includes a surviving spouse of:

16 **(i)** A veteran; or

17 **(ii)** A service member who died within 1 year before the date on
18 which the application for a license, certificate, or registration is submitted.

19 **(d)** “Service member” means an individual who is an active duty member of:

20 **(1)** The armed forces of the United States;

21 **(2)** A reserve component of the armed forces of the United States; or

22 **(3)** The National Guard of any state.

23 **(e) (1)** “Veteran” means a former service member who was discharged from
24 active duty under circumstances other than dishonorable within 1 year before the date on
25 which the application for a license, certificate, or registration is submitted.

26 **(2)** “Veteran” does not include an individual who has completed active duty
27 and has been discharged for more than 1 year before the application for a license, certificate,
28 or registration is submitted.]

1 (a) In calculating an individual's years of practice in a health occupation, each
2 health occupations board shall give credit to the individual for all relevant experience as
3 [a] AN ACTIVE service member.

4 (b) Each health occupations board shall credit any training and education
5 provided by the [military] UNIFORMED SERVICES and completed by [a] AN ACTIVE
6 service member toward any training or education requirements for licensure, certification,
7 or registration if the training or education is determined by the health occupations board
8 to be:

9 (1) Substantially equivalent to the training or education required by the
10 health occupations board; and

11 (2) Not otherwise contrary to any other licensing requirement.

12 1-703.

13 A health occupations board may allow a licensee or certificate holder who is a
14 member of [an armed force] ONE OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES deployed outside the
15 United States or its territories to:

16 (1) Renew the license or certificate after the expiration of the renewal
17 period without payment of a penalty or reinstatement fee if the late renewal is a direct
18 result of the deployment; and

19 (2) Complete any continuing education or continuing competency
20 requirements or criminal history records check required for renewal within a reasonable
21 time after renewing the license or certificate.

22 1-704.

23 (a) (1) Each health occupations board shall develop a procedure by which an
24 individual who applies for a license, certificate, or registration can notify the board that the
25 individual is [a] AN ACTIVE service member, ELIGIBLE veteran, or [military] ELIGIBLE
26 spouse.

27 (2) A health occupations board may satisfy the requirement of paragraph
28 (1) of this subsection by including a check-off box on a license, certificate, or registration
29 application form.

30 (b) For each applicant who is [a] AN ACTIVE service member, ELIGIBLE veteran,
31 or [military] ELIGIBLE spouse, a health occupations board shall assign to the applicant an
32 advisor to assist the individual with the application process.

1 (c) (1) Each health occupations board shall expedite the process for the
2 licensure, certification, or registration of [a] AN ACTIVE service member, ELIGIBLE
3 veteran, or [military] ELIGIBLE spouse.

4 (2) If [a] AN ACTIVE service member, ELIGIBLE veteran, or [military]
5 ELIGIBLE spouse meets the requirements for licensure, certification, or registration, a
6 health occupations board shall issue the license, certificate, or registration within 15
7 business days after receiving a completed application.

8 (d) If a health occupations board determines that [a] AN ACTIVE service member,
9 ELIGIBLE veteran, or [military] ELIGIBLE spouse does not meet the education, training,
10 or experience requirements for licensure, certification, or registration, a representative of
11 the board shall assist the ACTIVE service member, ELIGIBLE veteran, or [military]
12 ELIGIBLE spouse in identifying:

13 (1) Programs that offer relevant education or training; or

14 (2) Ways of obtaining needed experience.

15 1–705.

16 Each health occupations board shall publish prominently on its website information
17 on:

18 (1) The expedited licensing process available to ACTIVE service members,
19 ELIGIBLE veterans, and [military] ELIGIBLE spouses under § 1–704 of this subtitle; and

20 (2) Any assistance and services related to licensure, certification, or
21 registration provided by the board to ACTIVE service members, ELIGIBLE veterans, and
22 [military] ELIGIBLE spouses.

23 1–802.

24 (a) (2) The Department, in consultation with the Department of Veterans and
25 Military Families, shall provide to each board a list of recommended courses in [military]
26 UNIFORMED SERVICES culture.

27 2–4A–14.

28 Subject to the hearing provisions of § 2–4A–16 of this subtitle, the Board, on the
29 affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny a license to an
30 applicant, reprimand a licensee, place a licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke the
31 license of a licensee if the applicant or licensee:

32 (10) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority of any state or
33 country, convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country, or disciplined by any

1 branch of the [United States] uniformed services or the United States Department of
2 Veterans Affairs for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under this section;

3 7-314.

4 (g) If, when the license of an individual otherwise would expire, the licensee is on
5 active duty, **AS DEFINED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE**, as a
6 member of the armed forces but not on a career basis, the license is renewed automatically
7 for a 1-year term without application or payment of a fee.

8 7-410.

9 (a) (2) The person designated on a United States Department of Defense
10 Record of Emergency Data (DD Form 93), or its successor form, as the person authorized
11 to direct disposition may serve as the authorizing agent for a decedent, if the decedent:

12 (i) Died while serving in the [United States armed forces]
13 **UNIFORMED SERVICES**; and

14 8-6B-18.

15 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 8-317 of this title and § 8-6B-19 of this
16 subtitle, the Board may deny a license to an applicant, grant a license, including a license
17 subject to a reprimand, probation, or suspension, to an applicant, reprimand a licensee,
18 place a licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke a license if the applicant or licensee:

19 (7) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority of any state or
20 country, convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country, or disciplined by any
21 branch of the [United States] uniformed services or the Veterans Administration for an act
22 that would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary statutes;

23 11-305.

24 (c) (2) The Board may waive the requirement of practicing optometry actively
25 for an applicant who for 3 years:

26 (ii) Was a [military] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** optometrist;

27 13-316.

28 Subject to the hearing provisions of § 13-317 of this subtitle, the Board may deny a
29 license or restricted license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee or holder of a
30 restricted license, place any licensee or holder of a restricted license on probation, or
31 suspend or revoke a license or restricted license if the applicant, licensee, or holder:

1 (10) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority of any state or
2 country or convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country or disciplined by any
3 branch of the [United States] uniformed services or Veterans Administration for an act
4 that would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary statutes;

5 14-302.

6 Subject to the rules, regulations, and orders of the Board, the following individuals
7 may practice medicine without a license:

8 (2) A physician licensed by and residing in another jurisdiction, if the
9 physician:

10 (iii) Is engaged in clinical training or participates in training or
11 teaching of a skill or procedure in a hospital if:

12 4. The visiting physician has no history of any medical
13 disciplinary action in any other state, territory, nation, or any branch of the [United States]
14 uniformed services or the Veterans Administration, and has no significant detrimental
15 malpractice history;

16 14-404.

17 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 14-405 of this subtitle, a disciplinary
18 panel, on the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum of the disciplinary panel, may
19 reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke a license if
20 the licensee:

21 (21) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority or convicted or
22 disciplined by a court of any state or country or disciplined by any branch of the [United
23 States] uniformed services or the Veterans' Administration for an act that would be
24 grounds for disciplinary action under this section;

25 14-5A-17.

26 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 14-405 of this title, a disciplinary panel,
27 on the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of the disciplinary panel, may deny a
28 license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or
29 suspend or revoke a license, if the applicant or licensee:

30 (17) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority or is convicted or
31 disciplined by a court of any state or country or is disciplined by any branch of the [United
32 States] uniformed services or the Veterans' Administration for an act that would be
33 grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary statutes;

34 14-5B-14.

1 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 14–405 of this title, a disciplinary panel,
2 on the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum of the disciplinary panel, may deny a
3 license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or
4 suspend or revoke a license, if the applicant or licensee:

5 (17) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority or is convicted or
6 disciplined by a court of any state or country or is disciplined by any branch of the [United
7 States] uniformed services or the Veterans' Administration for an act that would be
8 grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary statutes;

9 14–5C–17.

10 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 14–405 of this title, a disciplinary panel,
11 on the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of the disciplinary panel, may deny a
12 license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or
13 suspend or revoke a license, if the applicant or licensee:

14 (18) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority or is convicted or
15 disciplined by a court of any state or country or is disciplined by any branch of the [United
16 States] uniformed services or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for an act that would
17 be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary statutes;

18 14–5D–11.4.

19 (b) (1) The Board shall issue an approval to perform dry needling to a licensed
20 athletic trainer who provides proof of completion of at least 80 hours of instruction in a
21 continuing education course approved by:

22 (iii) The [United States] armed forces.

23 14–5D–14.

24 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 14–405 of this title, a disciplinary panel,
25 on the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of the disciplinary panel, may deny a
26 license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or
27 suspend or revoke a license, if the applicant or licensee:

28 (17) Is disciplined by a licensing, certifying, or disciplinary authority or is
29 convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country or is disciplined by any branch of
30 the [United States] uniformed services or the Veterans Administration for an act that
31 would be grounds for disciplinary action under this section;

32 14–5E–16.

1 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 14–405 of this title, a disciplinary panel,
2 on the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum of the disciplinary panel, may deny a
3 license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or
4 suspend or revoke a license, if the applicant or licensee:

5 (18) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority or is convicted or
6 disciplined by a court of any state or country or is disciplined by any branch of the [United
7 States] uniformed services or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for an act that would
8 be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board’s disciplinary statutes;

9 14–5G–18.

10 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 14–405 of this title, a disciplinary panel,
11 on the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum of the disciplinary panel, may deny a
12 license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or
13 suspend or revoke a license, if the applicant or licensee:

14 (19) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority or is convicted or
15 disciplined by a court of any state or country or is disciplined by any branch of the [United
16 States] uniformed services or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for an act that would
17 be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board’s disciplinary statutes;

18 15–314.

19 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 15–315 of this subtitle, a disciplinary
20 panel, on the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum, may reprimand any physician
21 assistant, place any physician assistant on probation, or suspend or revoke a license if the
22 physician assistant:

23 (21) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority or convicted or
24 disciplined by a court of any state or country or disciplined by any branch of the [United
25 States] uniformed services or the Veterans’ Administration for an act that would be
26 grounds for disciplinary action under this section;

27 16–311.

28 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 16–313 of this subtitle, the Board, on the
29 affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny a license or a limited
30 license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee or holder of a limited license, impose an
31 administrative monetary penalty not exceeding \$50,000 on any licensee or holder of a
32 limited license, place any licensee or holder of a limited license on probation, or suspend or
33 revoke a license or a limited license if the applicant, licensee, or holder:

34 (21) Has been disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority of any state
35 or country or convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country or disciplined by

1 any branch of the [United States] uniformed services or the United States Veterans
2 Administration for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under this section;
3 17-6A-19.

4 Subject to the hearing provisions of § 17-6A-21 of this subtitle, the Board, on the
5 affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny a license to any
6 applicant, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke a
7 license of any licensee if the applicant or licensee:

8 (10) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority of any state or
9 country or convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country or disciplined by any
10 branch of the [United States] uniformed services or the United States Veterans
11 Administration for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's
12 disciplinary statutes;

13 18-313.

14 Subject to the hearing provisions of § 18-315 of this subtitle, the Board, on the
15 affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny a license or
16 registration to any applicant, reprimand any licensee or registrant, place any licensee or
17 registrant on probation, or suspend or revoke a license or registration of any licensee or
18 registrant if the applicant, licensee, or registrant:

19 (11) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority of any state or
20 country or convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country or disciplined by any
21 branch of the [United States] uniformed services or the United States Veterans
22 Administration for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's
23 disciplinary statutes;

24 Article – Housing and Community Development

25 1-101.

26 (a) In this Division I of this article the following words have the meanings
27 indicated.

28 **(K) “VETERAN” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE**
29 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

30 4-2906.

31 The Department and each public housing agency shall equally prioritize vouchers
32 and housing assistance payments for families that include:

33 (1) a child who is under the age of 18 years;

- 1 (2) a foster child who is:
- 2 (i) at least 18 years old; but
- 3 (ii) under the age of 24 years;
- 4 (3) a [military] veteran;
- 5 (4) an individual experiencing homelessness;
- 6 (5) a disabled individual; or
- 7 (6) an elderly individual.

8 **Article – State Government**

9 9–901.

10 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

11 **(B) “ACTIVE DUTY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN 37 U.S.C. § 101.**

12 **(C) “ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS:**

13 **(1) AN ACTIVE DUTY MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES; OR**

14 **(2) SERVING IN A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE UNIFORMED**
15 **SERVICES ON ACTIVE DUTY ORDERS.**

16 **(D) “ARMED FORCES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN 10 U.S.C. § 101.**

17 **[(b)] (E)** “Board” means the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Veterans Trust.

18 **[(c)] (F)** “Department” means the Department of Veterans and Military
19 Families.

20 **(G) “MILITARY FAMILY” INCLUDES THE SPOUSE AND DEPENDENT**
21 **CHILDREN OF A SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN RELATED BY BLOOD, MARRIAGE, OR**
22 **ADOPTION.**

23 **(H) “RESERVE COMPONENT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN 37 U.S.C. § 101.**

24 **[(d)] (I)** “Secretary” means the Secretary of Veterans and Military Families.

25 **(J) “SERVICE MEMBER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A MEMBER OF:**

1 **(1) THE UNIFORMED SERVICES; OR**

2 **(2) A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.**

3 **[(e)] (K)** “Trust” means the Maryland Veterans Trust.

4 **(L) “UNIFORMED SERVICES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN 37 U.S.C. § 101.**

5 **[(f)] (M)** Except as otherwise provided [in this subtitle], “veteran” [means an
6 individual who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, other than
7 for training, and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable] **HAS**
8 **THE MEANING STATED IN 38 U.S.C. § 101.**

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2025.