

SENATE BILL 309

P1

5lr1409

By: **Senator Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Veterans and Military Families – Online Registry**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program in
4 the Department of Veterans and Military Families to establish and maintain an
5 online registry to provide veterans, military families, and interested individuals with
6 certain information; requiring the Secretary of Veterans and Military Families to
7 include certain information about the online registry in a certain annual report; and
8 generally relating to veterans and military families.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – State Government
11 Section 9–901 and 9–946(7) and (8)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – State Government
16 Section 9–940(a)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article – State Government
21 Section 9–945 and 9–946(8)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – State Government**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 9–901.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 [(c)] (F) “Department” means the Department of Veterans and Military
11 Families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 9–940.

1 (a) In this part, "Program" means the Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy
2 Program.

3 **9-945.**

4 (A) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2025, THE PROGRAM SHALL ESTABLISH
5 AND MAINTAIN AN ONLINE REGISTRY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO REGISTERED
6 INDIVIDUALS.

7 (B) THE REGISTRY SHALL:

8 (1) ALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL TO REGISTER;

9 (2) PROVIDE REGISTERED INDIVIDUALS INFORMATION, INCLUDING
10 AVAILABLE SERVICES, BENEFITS, AND NEWS THAT IMPACTS VETERANS, SERVICE
11 MEMBERS, MILITARY FAMILIES, AND OTHER INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS;

12 (3) ALLOW A REGISTERED INDIVIDUAL TO UPDATE THEIR ONLINE
13 REGISTRY INFORMATION INCLUDING THE INDIVIDUAL'S NAME, E-MAIL ADDRESS,
14 AND OPTIONAL STATUSES; AND

15 (4) HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO IMPORT SHAREABLE REGISTRATION
16 DATA PROVIDED BY OTHER AUTHORIZED UNITS OF STATE GOVERNMENT.

17 (C) THE PROGRAM:

18 (1) SHALL REQUIRE AN INDIVIDUAL REGISTERING WITH THE ONLINE
19 REGISTRY TO PROVIDE THE INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS; AND

20 (2) SHALL REQUEST THAT AN INDIVIDUAL REGISTERING WITH THE
21 ONLINE REGISTRY PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING OPTIONAL STATUS INFORMATION:

22 (I) WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL IS A VETERAN;

23 (II) WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL IS CURRENTLY ON ACTIVE
24 DUTY;

25 (III) WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL IS A MEMBER OF:

26 1. THE UNIFORMED SERVICES;

27 2. A RESERVE COMPONENT; OR

3. THE MARYLAND DEFENSE FORCE; AND

(IV) IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS NOT A VETERAN OR MEMBER AS DESCRIBED IN ITEM (III) OF THIS ITEM, WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL IS:

1. A SPOUSE OF A MEMBER OR VETERAN;

2. A DEPENDENT CHILD OF A MEMBER OR VETERAN; OR

3. ANY OTHER INTERESTED INDIVIDUAL.

9–946.

The Secretary shall submit a report by December 31 of each year to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of this article, the General Assembly, that includes:

(7) the status of federal veterans programs as they relate to Maryland veterans; [and]

(8) A REPORT ON THE ONLINE REGISTRY INCLUDING:

(I) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ON THE REGISTRY;

(II) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ON THE REGISTRY LISTED BY STATUSES, INCLUDING THOSE WITH AN UNDECLARED STATUS;

(III) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ADDED TO THE REGISTRY IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR; AND

(IV) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS THAT UNSUBSCRIBED OR WERE REMOVED FROM THE REGISTRY IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR; AND

[(8)] (9) any other issues concerning veterans that the Secretary considers appropriate.

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