

# SENATE BILL 740

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5lr2781

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By: **Senator Folden**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Care Facilities – Warrior Community Members**  
3 **(SFC Matthew Fast Act for Warrior Healthcare)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring each health care facility to screen each patient for information  
5 on whether the patient is a warrior community member, include on the patient’s  
6 medical record whether the patient is a warrior community member, and meet  
7 certain standards established by The Joint Commission for the purpose of improving  
8 health care equity for warrior community members; and generally relating to health  
9 care facilities and veterans, service members, and their families.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Health – General  
12 Section 24–2501 and 24–2502 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 25. Health Care  
13 Equity for Warrior Community Members”  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Health – General**

19 **SUBTITLE 25. HEALTH CARE EQUITY FOR WARRIOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS.**

20 **24–2501.**

21 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
22 **INDICATED.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) (1) “HEALTH CARE FACILITY” MEANS A FACILITY OR AN OFFICE**  
2 **WHERE HEALTH CARE IS PROVIDED TO PATIENTS BY A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER**  
3 **OR GROUP OF HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE**  
4 **AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES.**

5           **(2) “HEALTH CARE FACILITY” INCLUDES:**

6                   **(I) A HOSPITAL, AS DEFINED IN § 19–301 OF THIS ARTICLE;**

7                   **(II) A FREESTANDING MEDICAL FACILITY, AS DEFINED IN §**  
8 **19–3A–01 OF THIS ARTICLE;**

9                   **(III) A NURSING FACILITY;**

10                  **(IV) A RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER;**

11                  **(V) A REHABILITATION FACILITY; AND**

12                  **(VI) A FACILITY OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE**  
13 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, OR A HEALTH OFFICER.**

14           **(C) “SERVICE MEMBER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AN ACTIVE DUTY**  
15 **MEMBER OF:**

16                   **(1) THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES;**

17                   **(2) A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED**  
18 **STATES; OR**

19                   **(3) THE NATIONAL GUARD OF ANY STATE.**

20           **(D) “VETERAN” MEANS A FORMER SERVICE MEMBER WHO WAS**  
21 **DISCHARGED FROM ACTIVE DUTY.**

22           **(E) “WARRIOR COMMUNITY MEMBER” MEANS:**

23                   **(1) A SERVICE MEMBER;**

24                   **(2) A VETERAN;**

25                   **(3) THE SPOUSE OF A SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN;**

26                   **(4) A CHILD OF A SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN; OR**

1           **(5) A STEPCHILD OF A SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN.**

2   **24-2502.**

3           **(A) EACH HEALTH CARE FACILITY SHALL SCREEN EACH PATIENT FOR**  
4 **INFORMATION ON THE PATIENT'S ELIGIBILITY AS A WARRIOR COMMUNITY MEMBER**  
5 **AND INCLUDE IN THE PATIENT'S MEDICAL RECORD WHETHER THE PATIENT IS A**  
6 **WARRIOR COMMUNITY MEMBER.**

7           **(B) FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING HEALTH CARE EQUITY FOR WARRIOR**  
8 **COMMUNITY MEMBERS, EACH HEALTH CARE FACILITY SHALL IDENTIFY WARRIOR**  
9 **COMMUNITY MEMBERS AS A VULNERABLE POPULATION AND COMPLY WITH THE**  
10 **STANDARDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY GOAL TO IMPROVE**  
11 **HEALTH CARE EQUITY ESTABLISHED BY THE JOINT COMMISSION.**

12           **(C) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2026, THE**  
13 **DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**  
14 **2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON:**

15           **(1) THE NEEDS OF WARRIOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS;**

16           **(2) THE EXTENT TO WHICH EACH HEALTH CARE FACILITY MEETS THE**  
17 **NEEDS OF WARRIOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS IDENTIFIED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS**  
18 **SUBSECTION; AND**

19           **(3) A DESCRIPTION OF PROGRESS MADE TOWARD HEALTH CARE**  
20 **EQUITY FOR WARRIOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS.**

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