# **SENATE BILL 740**

J1, J3 5 lr 2781

## By: Senator Folden, Beidle, Ellis, Gile, Lam, Mautz, Ready, and A. Washington

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 28, 2025

CHAPTER

AN ACT concerning 1

### 2 Health Care Facilities - Warrior Service Member Community Members 3 (SFC Matthew Fast Act for Warrior Healthcare)

- 4 FOR the purpose of requiring authorizing each health care facility to screen each patient for information on whether the patient is a <del>warrior</del> service member community 6 member, include on the patient's medical record whether the patient is a warrior service member community member, and meet certain standards established by The Joint Commission for the purpose of improving health care equity for warrior service member community members; and generally relating to health care facilities and veterans, service members, and their families.
- 11 BY adding to

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- Article Health General 12
- Section 24–2501 and 24–2502 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 25. Health Care 13
- Equity for Warrior Service Member Community Members" 14
- Annotated Code of Maryland 15
- 16 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

#### 17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

1 2	SUBTITLE 25. HEALTH CARE EQUITY FOR WARRIOR SERVICE MEMBER COMMUNITY MEMBERS.
3	24-2501.
4 5	(A) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
6 7 8 9	(B) (1) "HEALTH CARE FACILITY" MEANS A FACILITY OR AN OFFICE WHERE HEALTH CARE IS PROVIDED TO PATIENTS BY A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER OR GROUP OF HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES.
10	(2) "HEALTH CARE FACILITY" INCLUDES:
11	(I) A HOSPITAL, AS DEFINED IN § 19–301 OF THIS ARTICLE;
12 13	(II) A FREESTANDING MEDICAL FACILITY, AS DEFINED IN § $19-3A-01$ OF THIS ARTICLE;
14	(III) A NURSING FACILITY;
15	(IV) A RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER;
16	(V) A REHABILITATION FACILITY; AND
17 18	(VI) A FACILITY OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, OR A HEALTH OFFICER.
19 20	(C) "SERVICE MEMBER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AN ACTIVE DUTY MEMBER OF:
21	(1) THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES;
22 23	(2) A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES; OR
24	(3) THE NATIONAL GUARD OF ANY STATE.
25 26	(D) "VETERAN" MEANS A FORMER SERVICE MEMBER WHO WAS DISCHARGED FROM ACTIVE DUTY.
27	(E) (D) "WARRIOR SERVICE MEMBER COMMUNITY MEMBER" MEANS:
28	(1) A SERVICE MEMBER;

1	(2) A VETERAN;
2	(3) THE SPOUSE OF A SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN;
3	(4) A CHILD OF A SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN; OR
4	(5) A STEPCHILD OF A SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN.
5	(E) "VETERAN" MEANS A FORMER SERVICE MEMBER WHO WAS
6	DISCHARGED FROM ACTIVE DUTY.
7	24-2502.
8	(A) EACH HEALTH CARE FACILITY SHALL MAY SCREEN EACH PATIENT FOR
9	INFORMATION ON THE PATIENT'S ELIGIBILITY AS A WARRIOR SERVICE MEMBER
10	COMMUNITY MEMBER AND INCLUDE IN THE PATIENT'S MEDICAL RECORD WHETHER
11	THE PATIENT IS A WARRIOR SERVICE MEMBER COMMUNITY MEMBER.
12	(B) FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING HEALTH CARE EQUITY FOR WARRIOR
13	SERVICE MEMBER COMMUNITY MEMBERS, EACH HEALTH CARE FACILITY SHALL
14	MAY IDENTIFY WARRIOR SERVICE MEMBER COMMUNITY MEMBERS AS A
15	VULNERABLE POPULATION AND COMPLY WITH THE STANDARDS ASSOCIATED WITH
16	THE NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY GOAL TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE EQUITY
17	ESTABLISHED BY THE JOINT COMMISSION.
10	(a) Over percent Degreepen 1 results percentage at 2000 min
18	(c) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2026, THE
19	DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §
20	2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON:
21	(1) THE NEEDS OF WARRIOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS;
22	(2) THE EXTENT TO WHICH EACH HEALTH CARE FACILITY MEETS THE
23	NEEDS OF WARRIOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS IDENTIFIED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS
$\frac{24}{24}$	SUBSECTION: AND
25	(3) A DESCRIPTION OF PROGRESS MADE TOWARD HEALTH CARE
26	EQUITY FOR WARRIOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS.
27	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28	October 1, 2025.