

# SENATE BILL 740

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5lr2781

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By: ~~Senator Folden~~ **Senators Folden, Beidle, Ellis, Gile, Lam, Mautz, Ready, and  
A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 28, 2025

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

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

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Health – General

13 Section 24–2501 and 24–2502 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 25. Health Care  
14 Equity for ~~Warrior~~ Service Member Community Members”

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

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:

19 **Article – Health – General**

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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) 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.

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~~  
 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.