

Chapter 757

(Senate Bill 740)

AN ACT concerning

**Health Care Facilities – ~~Warrior~~ Service Member Community Members
(SFC Matthew Fast Act for ~~Warrior~~ Healthcare)**

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring~~ authorizing each health care facility to screen each patient for information on whether the patient is a ~~warrior~~ service member community 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.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

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

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

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

Article – Health – General**SUBTITLE 25. HEALTH CARE EQUITY FOR ~~WARRIOR~~ SERVICE MEMBER
COMMUNITY MEMBERS.****24–2501.**

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

(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.

(2) “HEALTH CARE FACILITY” INCLUDES:

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

(II) A FREESTANDING MEDICAL FACILITY, AS DEFINED IN § 19-3A-01 OF THIS ARTICLE;

(III) A NURSING FACILITY;

(IV) A RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER;

(V) A REHABILITATION FACILITY; AND

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

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

~~(1) THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES;~~

~~(2) A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES; OR~~

~~(3) THE NATIONAL GUARD OF ANY STATE~~ HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

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

~~(E)~~ (D) “WARRIOR SERVICE MEMBER COMMUNITY MEMBER” MEANS:

(1) A SERVICE MEMBER;

(2) A VETERAN;

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

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

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

~~(E) "VETERAN" MEANS A FORMER SERVICE MEMBER WHO WAS DISCHARGED FROM ACTIVE DUTY HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.~~

24-2502.

(A) EACH HEALTH CARE FACILITY ~~SHALL~~ MAY SCREEN EACH PATIENT FOR INFORMATION ON THE PATIENT'S ELIGIBILITY AS A ~~WARRIOR SERVICE MEMBER~~ COMMUNITY MEMBER AND INCLUDE IN THE PATIENT'S MEDICAL RECORD WHETHER THE PATIENT IS A ~~WARRIOR SERVICE MEMBER~~ COMMUNITY MEMBER.

(B) FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING HEALTH CARE EQUITY FOR ~~WARRIOR SERVICE MEMBER~~ COMMUNITY MEMBERS, EACH HEALTH CARE FACILITY ~~SHALL~~ MAY IDENTIFY ~~WARRIOR SERVICE MEMBER~~ COMMUNITY MEMBERS AS A VULNERABLE POPULATION AND COMPLY WITH THE STANDARDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY GOAL TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE EQUITY ESTABLISHED BY THE JOINT COMMISSION.

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

~~(1) THE NEEDS OF WARRIOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS;~~

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

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

Article – State Government

9-901.

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

(b) "Board" means the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Veterans Trust.

(c) "Department" means the Department of Veterans and Military Families.

(D) "RESERVE COMPONENT" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN 37 U.S.C. § 101.

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

(F) “SERVICE MEMBER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A MEMBER OF:

(1) THE UNIFORMED SERVICES; OR

(2) A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.

~~[(e)]~~ (G) “Trust” means the Maryland Veterans Trust.

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.