

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 172 (Senator Simonaire)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Maryland Veterans Trust - Board of Trustees - Membership

This bill expands the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Veterans Trust to include the Secretary of Disabilities, *ex officio*, or the Secretary's designee.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Altering the composition of the Board of Trustees does not materially affect government finances. The Secretary of Disabilities (or their designee) can serve on the Board of Trustees with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 742 of 2009 established the Maryland Veterans Trust and the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) to provide monetary and other assistance to veterans and their families and public and private programs that support veterans and their families. Generally, MVTF consists of (1) gifts and grants; (2) contributions from the sale of tickets from instant ticket lottery machines, donations from video lottery facility players, designated fees from specified special registration plates, and specified civil penalties related to persons providing veterans benefits and veterans benefits appeals services; and (3) the net proceeds from contributions under a State income tax checkoff.

Generally, the Board of Trustees of the trust oversees and solicits funds for MVTF. The board consists of 11 members, including the secretaries of Aging, Labor, Health, and

Human Services, *ex officio* (or their designees), with the Secretary of Veterans and Military Families, *ex officio* (or their designee) serving as chair. The Department of Veterans and Military Families must provide staff, supplies, and office space for the trust.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Disabilities; Department of Veterans and Military Families; Department of Legislative Services

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km/jc

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