

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 114 (Senators Simonaire and Jackson)

Education, Energy, and the Environment and
Finance

**Maryland Department of Labor - Licenses - Notation of Veteran Status and
Eligibility for Benefits**

This bill authorizes each unit in the Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor) to establish a process to (1) include a notation indicating veteran status on an occupational license and (2) assist in determining eligibility for State and federal veterans' benefits. The bill establishes additional specifications for any process implemented by a unit of MD Labor.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: While the bill is authorizing, to the extent that any unit of MD Labor opts to create this process, general fund expenditures increase minimally on a one-time basis as early as FY 2026 to modify licenses to include a veteran status notation. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: If a unit of MD Labor establishes the process authorized by the bill, an application for an initial or renewal license must allow an applicant to (1) request that a notation of the applicant's veteran status be included on the license and (2) consent to being contacted by appropriate Executive Branch agencies about eligibility for State or federal veterans' benefits. If an applicant submits specified appropriate documentation, a

unit must include the notation on the applicant's license. On request from an Executive Branch agency and in accordance with the Maryland Public Information Act, a unit must electronically transmit – to that agency – appropriate information about the applicant relevant to determining the applicant's eligibility for State or federal veterans' benefits.

Current Law: The Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 facilitates professional licensing for active military personnel, veterans, and their spouses. The Act applies to the State's major licensing agencies, including MD Labor. Under the Act, as amended by Chapter 312 of 2019 and Chapter 177 of 2020, occupational and professional licensing units within MD Labor must issue expedited standard licenses, registrations, or certificates to military service members, veterans, and military spouses if specified education, training, and experience conditions are met. One of the conditions is that the applicant holds a valid license in good standing from another state and has held that equivalent valid license for at least one year.

If the applicant has held that license for less than one year, an expedited temporary license may be issued instead, so long as the issuance does not pose a risk to public health, welfare, or safety. The temporary license allows the individual to perform regulated services while completing additional requirements for licensure in the State.

State Expenditures: To the extent a unit of MD Labor elects to establish the process specified under the bill, general fund expenditures increase by a minimal amount on a one-time-only basis (up to \$12,000 for all MD Labor licensing units) as early as fiscal 2026 to modify MD Labor licenses to include a veteran notation.

This analysis assumes that MD Labor units, should the process be established, could electronically transmit appropriate information to Executive Branch agencies (such as the Department of Veterans and Military Families) about an applicant relevant to determining the applicant's eligibility for State or federal veterans' benefits.

Small Business Effect: To the extent that units of MD Labor elect to establish the process specified under the bill and veteran licensees opt for that designation upon license renewal, those small business licensees may incur minimal expenses. MD Labor advises that, should veteran notations be implemented, an eligible veteran who applies for the notation on their license at renewal would receive a new license number. Some licensees, such as home improvement contractors, include their license numbers on their vehicles and marketing materials. Thus, a veteran licensee who opts for the notation and receives a new license number may need to change their vehicle markings and marketing materials.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs; Department of Commerce; Maryland Higher Education Commission; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Natural Resources; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Veterans and Military Families; State Department of Assessments and Taxation; Maryland Insurance Administration; Military Department; Department of Legislative Services

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