

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 89 (Senators Simonaire and Jackson)  
Education, Energy, and the Environment

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**Department of the Environment - Notation of Veteran Status and Eligibility for Benefits**

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This bill authorizes the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to establish a process in collaboration with one or more boards under its direction and control that requires a board to (1) include a notation of an individual's veteran status on a professional license or certificate and (2) assist in determining eligibility for State and federal veterans benefits. The bill establishes additional specifications for any process implemented by MDE.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** MDE can implement the process authorized by the bill using existing budgeted resources. The bill is not anticipated to otherwise materially impact State operations or finances, as discussed below.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially impact local government operations or finances, as discussed below.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** If MDE establishes the process authorized by the bill, an application for a professional license or certificate must allow an individual to submit official certification of veteran status, as specified. The application must also allow an applicant to indicate consent to (1) having a notation of veteran status on the applicant's credential and (2) being

contacted by appropriate Executive Branch agencies about eligibility for State or federal veterans benefits.

If an applicant submits the appropriate documentation and required consent, the board must include the notation of veteran status on the applicant's license or certificate. On request from an Executive Branch agency, and in accordance with the Maryland Public Information Act, a board must electronically transmit appropriate information about the applicant relevant to determining the applicant's eligibility for State or federal veterans benefits.

MDE and relevant boards may adopt regulations related to the bill.

**Current Law:** Several boards under MDE are responsible for the licensing and certification of professionals in careers related to the environment. These include the Marine Contractors Licensing Board, the Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators, and the State Board of Well Drillers.

Generally, to obtain a license or certificate, an applicant must submit to the board an application on the form that the board provides and pay the required application fee (in addition to meeting any specified requirements regarding experience, education, and/or examination, as applicable).

The Department of Veterans and Military Families exists as a principal department of State government and is responsible for, among other duties, delivering services and programs to assist the State's veterans, their families, and survivors in obtaining State, federal, and local benefits provided by law in recognition for their service.

**State and Local Fiscal Effect:** To implement the process authorized by the bill, MDE must update forms and databases to account for the intake of new information related to veteran status. These changes can be accommodated using existing budgeted resources. The licensing boards under MDE do not anticipate any material impact on operations or finances.

Although the bill's provisions may facilitate additional veterans applying and being deemed eligible for certain benefits, any associated impact is not anticipated to materially affect State or local finances or operations.

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### **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 the Environment; Maryland Department of Health; Maryland Department of Labor; Maryland Department of Transportation; State Department of Assessments and Taxation; Maryland Insurance Administration; Military Department; Department of Veterans and Military Families; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 24, 2025  
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