

## Chapter 255

**(Senate Bill 276)**

AN ACT concerning

**Educational Equality for Service Members Act**

FOR the purpose of establishing rules of interpretation related to the uniformed services; altering the rule of interpretation for “veteran”; altering the application of certain provisions of law governing education to apply to all uniformed services, rather than only the armed forces; and generally relating to veterans and uniformed services.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Education

Section 1–101(a), 4–122.1(a)(1), and 7–101(c)(1)(i)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 1–101(a–1), (a–2), (b–1), (k–1), (n), and (o)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 4–122.1(a)(9)(vi), 4–128, 6–101.1, 7–101(b)(2)(i) and (c)(1)(iv)6. and (4), 7–115(a), 7–115.1, 7–129(a), (b), and (d)(1), 13–516(b–1), 15–106.4(a) and (b), 15–124(a), 16–109, 18–205, 18–405(d)(3), 18–406(g), ~~18–501(b)(2)(iii)~~, 18–501(b)(2)(iii); 18–601(c)(1) and (d)(2), ~~18–604(a), (e), and (d)~~, and 18–604(a), (c), and (d) to be under the amended subtitle “Subtitle 6. Scholarships for Uniformed Services and Public Safety Personnel and Their Dependents and the Dependents of Certain School Employees”; 18–708(l)(7), 18–1910(c)(2), 18–3005(1)(iv), and 21–309(a)(5)(ii)1.

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – General Provisions

Section 1–101.1, 1–101.2, 1–103.1, 1–114.1, 1–114.2, and 1–116

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – General Provisions

Section 1–117

Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2019 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 – Education**

1–101.

(a) In this article, unless the context requires otherwise, the following words have the meanings indicated.

**(A–1) “ACTIVE DUTY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9–901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

**(A–2) “ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9–901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

**(B–1) “ARMED FORCES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9–901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

**(K–1) “RESERVE COMPONENT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9–901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

**(N) “UNIFORMED SERVICES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9–901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

**(O) “VETERAN” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9–901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

4–122.1.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(9) “Serious family hardship” means:

(vi) Assignment of a parent or legal guardian of a child to active [military] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** duty.

4–128.

A county board of education is subject to the requirements relating to employees who return from [military services] **SERVICE IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES** in § 1–203 of the Local Government Article.

6–101.1.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) (i) **["Military] "ELIGIBLE spouse"** means the spouse of [a] **AN ACTIVE** service member or **ELIGIBLE** veteran.

(ii) **["Military] "ELIGIBLE spouse"** includes a surviving spouse of:

1. **[A] AN ELIGIBLE** veteran; or

2. **[A] AN ACTIVE** service member who died within 1 year before the date on which the application for an educator ~~certificate~~ **LICENSE** is submitted.

[(3) "Service member" means an individual who is an active duty member of:

(i) The armed forces of the United States;

(ii) A reserve component of the armed forces of the United States; or

(iii) The National Guard of any state.

(4) (i) "Veteran" means a former service member who was discharged from active duty under circumstances other than dishonorable within 1 year before the date on which the application for an educator certificate is submitted.

(ii) "Veteran" does not include an individual who has completed active duty and has been discharged for more than 1 year before the application for an educator certificate is submitted.]

**(3) (I) "ELIGIBLE VETERAN" MEANS A VETERAN WHO WAS DISCHARGED FROM ACTIVE DUTY WITHIN 1 YEAR BEFORE THE DATE ON WHICH THE APPLICATION FOR AN EDUCATOR ~~CERTIFICATE~~ LICENSE IS SUBMITTED.**

**(II) "ELIGIBLE VETERAN" DOES NOT INCLUDE A VETERAN WHO HAS BEEN DISCHARGED FROM ACTIVE DUTY FOR MORE THAN 1 YEAR BEFORE THE APPLICATION FOR AN EDUCATOR ~~CERTIFICATE~~ LICENSE IS SUBMITTED.**

(b) The State Superintendent shall expedite educator ~~certification~~ LICENSURE for [a] **AN ACTIVE** service member, **ELIGIBLE** veteran, or [military] **ELIGIBLE** spouse.

(c) To qualify for expedited educator ~~certification~~ LICENSURE under this section, [a] **AN ACTIVE** service member, **ELIGIBLE** veteran, or [military] **ELIGIBLE** spouse shall:

(1) Submit an application for educator ~~certification~~ LICENSURE;

(2) Hold a valid educator license or certificate in good standing issued in another state;

(3) Meet the applicable qualifications for ~~certification~~ LICENSURE in COMAR 13A.12.01.04 and .05; and

(4) Pay the applicable ~~certification~~ LICENSURE fee.

(d) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the State Superintendent, at the request of a local school system, may issue a temporary educator ~~certificate~~ LICENSE to [a] **AN ACTIVE** service member, **ELIGIBLE** veteran, or [military] **ELIGIBLE** spouse who holds a valid educator certificate or license in good standing issued in another state but who does not meet the qualifications for educator ~~certification~~ LICENSURE in this State.

(2) A temporary educator ~~certificate~~ LICENSE issued under this subsection authorizes the **ACTIVE** service member, **ELIGIBLE** veteran, or [military] **ELIGIBLE** spouse, for a limited period of time, as determined by the State Superintendent, to be employed as an educator in the State while the **ACTIVE** service member, **ELIGIBLE** veteran, or [military] **ELIGIBLE** spouse completes additional requirements for ~~certification~~ LICENSURE in this State.

(e) The Department shall publish prominently on its website the process for obtaining expedited educator ~~certification~~ LICENSURE under this section.

(f) The State Board may adopt regulations to carry out this section.

7-101.

(b) (2) (i) [Upon] **ON** request and in accordance with a county board's policies concerning residency, a county superintendent:

1. May allow a child to attend school in the county even if the child is not domiciled in that county with the child's parent or guardian; and

2. Shall allow a dependent child of [a] AN ACTIVE service member who is relocating to the State on [military] OFFICIAL orders to enroll in school in the county in accordance with § 7-115.1 of this subtitle.

(c) (1) (i) In this subsection the following words have the meanings indicated.

(iv) "Serious family hardship" means:

6. Assignment of a parent or legal guardian of a child to active [military] UNIFORMED SERVICES duty.

(4) The affidavit shall be in the following form:

(i) I, the undersigned, am over eighteen (18) years of age and competent to testify to the facts and matters set forth herein.

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_ (name of child), whose date of birth is \_\_\_\_\_, is living with me because of the following serious family hardship: (check each that is applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_ death of father/mother/legal guardian

\_\_\_\_\_ serious illness of father/mother/legal guardian

\_\_\_\_\_ drug addiction of father/mother/legal guardian

\_\_\_\_\_ incarceration of father/mother/legal guardian

\_\_\_\_\_ abandonment by father/mother/legal guardian

\_\_\_\_\_ assignment of a parent or legal guardian of a child to active [military] UNIFORMED SERVICES duty

(iii) The name and last known address of the child's parent(s) or legal guardian is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(iv) My kinship relation to the child is \_\_\_\_\_

(v) My address is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Street

Apt. No.

City

State

Zip Code

(vi) I assumed informal kinship care of this child for 24 hours a day and 7 days a week on \_\_\_\_\_(day/month/year).

(vii) The name and address of the last school that the child attended is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(viii) The county superintendent may verify the facts contained in the foregoing affidavit and conduct an audit on a case-by-case basis after the child has been enrolled in the county public school system. If the county superintendent discovers fraud or misrepresentation, the child shall be removed from the public school or county public school system roll.

(ix) I solemnly affirm under the penalties of perjury that the contents of the foregoing are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of affiant

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Day/month/year)

(x) Any person who willfully makes a material misrepresentation in this affidavit shall be subject to a penalty payable to the county for three times the pro rata share of tuition for the time the child fraudulently attends a public school in the county.

7-115.

(a) To facilitate the transfer of school-aged student dependents of [military personnel] **ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS** to and from the public schools of this State, the State Board shall pursue reciprocity agreements with other states regarding the terms of those student transfers.

7-115.1.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Dependent child” means an individual of school age who is a natural child, a stepchild, an adopted child, or a financially dependent child of [a] **AN ACTIVE** service member.

(3) “Enrollment” includes course registration and charter school lotteries.

[(4) (i) “Service member” means an active duty member of the United States armed forces.

(ii) “Service member” includes a member of the National Guard on active duty orders.]

(b) A county superintendent shall allow a dependent child of [a] **AN ACTIVE** service member who is relocating to the State on [military] **OFFICIAL** orders and is not domiciled in that county during the enrollment period to apply for enrollment in a public school in the county, in the same manner and at the same time as individuals domiciled in the county.

(c) (1) Within 10 days of the published arrival date on the **ACTIVE** service member’s [military] **OFFICIAL** orders, the **ACTIVE** service member shall provide the school with:

(i) Satisfactory evidence of the dependent child’s status as a dependent child of the **ACTIVE** service member;

(ii) A copy of the **ACTIVE** service member’s [military] **OFFICIAL** orders to relocate; and

(iii) Proof of residence in the county.

(2) The **ACTIVE** service member may use the address of any of the following as proof of residence:

(i) A temporary on–base lodging facility;

(ii) A purchased or leased home or apartment; or

(iii) Any federal government housing unit or off–base military housing unit.

7–129.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Military–connected student” means a student who is a dependent of:

(i) [A current] **AN ACTIVE DUTY UNIFORMED SERVICES** member [of:

1. The United States military serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard on active duty;

2. The Maryland National Guard or the National Guard of any other state; or

3. A reserve force of the United States military];

**(II) A MEMBER OF A RESERVE COMPONENT; or**

**[(ii)] (III)** A member [of a military or reserve force] described in item (i) **OR (II)** of this paragraph who was killed in the line of duty.

(3) “Program” means the Purple Star Schools Program.

(b) (1) There is a Purple Star Schools Program.

(2) The purpose of the Program is to recognize public schools that provide strong services and support for military–connected students and their families when, as a result of [military service] **OFFICIAL ORDERS**, a military–connected student transfers schools.

(d) At a minimum, the Department’s criteria for a Purple Star School shall require a public school to:

(1) Designate a staff member as a [military] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** liaison, whose duties shall include:

(i) Identifying military–connected students who are newly enrolled or soon to be enrolled at the school;

(ii) Serving as the point of contact between the school and newly enrolled or soon to be enrolled military–connected students and their families;

(iii) Determining appropriate school services available to newly enrolled or soon to be enrolled military–connected students;

(iv) Assisting in coordinating school programs for newly enrolled or soon to be enrolled military–connected students; and

(v) Generally aiding with a military–connected student’s transition to a new school;

13–516.

(b–1) (1) [In this subsection, “service member” means an individual who is an active duty member of:

- (i) The armed forces of the United States;
- (ii) A reserve component of the armed forces of the United States; or
- (iii) The National Guard of any state.

(2) (i)] In calculating an individual's years of experience in an occupation or profession, the EMS Board shall give credit to the individual for all relevant experience as [a] **AN ACTIVE** service member.

[(ii)] **(2)** The EMS Board shall credit any training and education provided by the [military] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** and completed by [a] **AN ACTIVE** service member toward any training or education requirements for licensure or certification if the training or education is determined by the EMS Board to be:

[1.] **(I)** Substantially equivalent to the training or education required by the EMS Board; and

[2.] **(II)** Not otherwise contrary to any other licensing requirement.

15-106.4.

(a) This section applies to the following individuals:

(1) [An active duty member of the United States armed forces] **AN ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER;**

(2) The spouse of [an active duty member of the United States armed forces] **AN ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER;**

(3) A financially dependent child of [an active duty member of the United States armed forces] **AN ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER;**

(4) ~~[An honorably discharged veteran of the United States armed forces]~~ **A VETERAN;** or

(5) A member of the National Guard as defined in § 13-405(a)(3) of the Public Safety Article.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, an individual described in subsection (a) of this section who attends a public institution of higher education in the State is exempt from paying nonresident tuition at a public institution of higher education in this State if:

(1) The active [duty] **SERVICE** member [described in subsection (a) of this section]:

- (i) Is stationed in this State;
- (ii) Resides in this State; or
- (iii) Is domiciled in this State;

(2) The spouse or financially dependent child [described in subsection (a) of this section] **OF AN ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER** presents documentation that, during the time period in which the active [duty] **SERVICE** member met the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection, the individual:

- (i) Enrolled as an entering student in a public institution of higher education in the State; or
- (ii) Was accepted to attend a public institution of higher education in the State;

(3) The ~~[honorably discharged]~~ veteran [described in subsection (a) of this section] presents documentation that the individual:

- (i) Was honorably discharged from the [United States armed forces] **UNIFORMED SERVICES**; and
- (ii)
  1. Resides in this State; or
  2. Is domiciled in this State; or

(4) The National Guard member ~~described in subsection (a) of this section~~ is a member of the Maryland National Guard and joined or subsequently serves in the Maryland National Guard to:

- (i) Provide a Critical Military Occupational Skill; or
- (ii) Be a member of the Air Force Critical Specialty Code as determined by the National Guard.

15–124.

(a) In this section, “eligible service member” means:

(1) [A currently serving member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States, including the National Guard and the military reserves] **AN ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER**; and

(2) A veteran ~~[of any branch of the armed forces of the United States, including the National Guard and the military reserves,~~ who has received an honorable discharge or a certificate of satisfactory completion of ~~military service]~~.

16-109.

Each community college shall:

(1) Ensure all student advisors are trained on the unique needs and resources available for students who are veterans;

(2) Employ at least one employee who, as a component of the employee's job duties and responsibilities, provides comprehensive and intensive enrollment and advising services to current and prospective students who are veterans; and

(3) Establish a veterans resource center on campus to:

(i) Provide access to federal and State veterans resources;

(ii) Serve as a quiet place for veterans to study;

(iii) Enable veterans to connect to other veterans, helping them renew the bonds of [military] service; and

(iv) Be the central hub for all activities on campus related to veterans.

18-205.

Subject to rules and regulations adopted by the Commission, the Office shall grant a deferment from the service obligation component of student financial assistance awarded under this title to:

(1) An [individual] **ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER** who has been assigned [military] duty outside of the State; or

(2) The spouse of an [individual] **ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER** who has been assigned [military] duty outside of the State.

18-405.

(d) Each Senator may award not more than 10% of the funds available under this subtitle to applicants planning to attend accredited undergraduate, graduate, or professional institutions outside the State, provided the applicant:

(3) Is an [individual who is on active duty with the United States military] **ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER** who is domiciled in this State.

18-406.

(g) A recipient of a senatorial scholarship who is an [individual who is on active duty with the United States military] **ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER** and otherwise meets the conditions of subsection (a) or (b) of this section may be domiciled in this State rather than eligible for in-State tuition under this article.

18-501.

(b) A scholarship awarded under this subtitle may be used at:

(2) An accredited undergraduate, graduate, or professional institution outside the State, if the applicant:

(iii) Is an [individual who is on active duty with the United States military] **ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER** who is domiciled in this State; and

Subtitle 6. Scholarships for [Military] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** and Public Safety Personnel and Their Dependents and the Dependents of Certain School Employees.

18-601.

(c) (1) The program for [military] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** and public safety personnel and their eligible dependents is the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program.

(d) (2) To apply for a scholarship under this section, the following persons are required to be a resident of Maryland at the time of application or at the time of the disabling or fatal event:

(i) A son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, or the surviving spouse of a member of the [armed forces] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** who:

1. Died as a result of [military] service after December 7, 1941;

2. Suffered a service connected 100% permanent disability after December 7, 1941; or

3. Was declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action, if that occurred on or after January 1, 1960, as a result of the Vietnam conflict, and if the child was born prior to or while the parent was a prisoner of war or missing in action;

(ii) A prisoner of war or missing in action, if that occurred on or after January 1, 1960, as a result of the Vietnam conflict and was a resident of this State at the time the person was declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action;

(iii) A veteran[, as defined under § 9–901 of the State Government Article,] who:

1. Suffers a service connected disability of 25% or greater;  
and

2. Has exhausted or is no longer eligible for federal veterans' educational benefits;

(iv) A son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of or the surviving spouse of a victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

(v) A son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter of a school employee who, as a result of an act of violence:

1. Died in the line of duty; or

2. Sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the school employee 100% disabled; or

(vi) The surviving spouse of a school employee who, as a result of an act of violence:

1. Died in the line of duty; or

2. Sustained an injury in the line of duty that rendered the school employee 100% disabled.

18–604.

(a) For purposes of this section, an individual served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict if the individual was [a] **AN ACTIVE SERVICE** member [of the uniformed services of the United States] who served in:

(1) Afghanistan or contiguous air space, as defined in federal regulations, on or after October 24, 2001; or

(2) Iraq or contiguous waters or air space, as defined in federal regulations, on or after March 19, 2003.

(c) An individual may apply to the Office for a scholarship under this section if the individual:

(1) Is a resident of Maryland;

(2) (i) Is accepted for admission or enrolled in the regular undergraduate program at an eligible institution; or

(ii) Is accepted for admission or enrolled in a 2-year terminal certificate program in which the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program in an eligible institution; and

(3) (i) 1. Is a veteran[, as defined under § 9-901 of the State Government Article,] who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict;

2. Is an active [duty member of the armed forces] **SERVICE MEMBER** who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict; or

3. Is a member of a reserve component [of the armed forces of the United States or the Maryland National Guard] who was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict described in subsection (a) of this section; or

(ii) Is a son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, or spouse of:

1. A veteran or **AN** active [duty] **SERVICE** member [of the armed forces] who is serving or has served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict; or

2. A member of the reserve [or Maryland National Guard] **COMPONENT** who was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict described in subsection (a) of this section.

(d) A scholarship awarded under this section may supplement, but is not contingent on, any federal education benefits for which a recipient qualifies as a result of an individual's [military] service or status as a dependent of [a] **AN ACTIVE SERVICE** member [of the armed forces] or of a veteran [of the armed forces].

18-708.

(l) (7) The Office shall grant a deferment from the service obligation required under this section to:

(i) An [individual] **ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER** who has been assigned [military] duty outside the State; or

(ii) The spouse of an [individual] **ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER** who has been assigned [military] duty outside the State.

18-1910.

(c) (2) The time that a qualified beneficiary spends in active duty as a member of the [United States armed forces] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** shall be added to the time period allowed to exercise the benefits under a prepaid contract before a termination under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

18-3005.

To qualify for participation in the Program, an individual shall:

(1) (iv) 1. Have been honorably discharged from the [United States armed forces, the National Guard,] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** or a reserve component [of the United States armed forces] within 18 months of the date of application;

2. Be a resident of Maryland; and

3. Have graduated from a public or private nonprofit institution of higher education;

21-309.

(a) (5) (ii) “Qualified employee with a disability” includes:

1. An individual who has been determined by the Maryland Department of Labor, in consultation with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, as having been discharged or released from active duty in the [armed forces of the United States] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** for a service-connected disability; and

### **Article – General Provisions**

**1-101.1.**

“ACTIVE DUTY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

**1-101.2.**

**“ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

**1-103.1.**

**“ARMED FORCES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

**1-114.1.**

**“RESERVE COMPONENT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

**1-114.2.**

**“SERVICE MEMBER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

**1-116.**

**“UNIFORMED SERVICES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

**1-117.**

**(A) “VETERAN” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

**(B)** With respect to any State program of benefits, rights, or privileges applicable to a veteran under this Code, “veteran” includes ~~§~~ if the individual is eligible under 38 U.S.C. § 101, a member of the commissioned corps of:

(1) the Public Health Service; or

(2) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or its predecessor, the Coast and Geodetic Survey] ~~AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MEETS THE DEFINITION OF “VETERAN” UNDER § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.~~

## Article – State Government

**9-901.**

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

**(B) “ACTIVE DUTY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN 37 U.S.C. § 101.**

**(C) “ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS:**

**(1) AN ACTIVE DUTY MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES; OR**

**(2) SERVING IN A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES ON ACTIVE DUTY ORDERS.**

**[(b)] (D) “ARMED FORCES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN 10 U.S.C. § 101.**

**(E) “Board” means the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Veterans Trust.**

**[(c)] (F) “Department” means the Department of Veterans and Military Families.**

**(G) “MILITARY FAMILY” INCLUDES THE SPOUSE AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF A SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN RELATED BY BLOOD, MARRIAGE, OR ADOPTION.**

**(H) “RESERVE COMPONENT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN 37 U.S.C. § 101.**

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

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

**(1) THE UNIFORMED SERVICES; OR**

**(2) A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.**

**[(e)] (K) “Trust” means the Maryland Veterans Trust.**

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

**[(f)] (M) 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 July 1, 2025.**

**Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.**