

SENATE BILL 96

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6lr0728

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Simonaire**

Requested: August 22, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 7, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for**
3 **Service Members and Veterans – Terminology – Active Service Members**

4 FOR the purpose of altering certain terminology used in the Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral
5 Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans that
6 refers to active service members to refer to service members; and generally relating
7 to the Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for
8 Service Members and Veterans.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Health – General
11 Section 7.5–210(a), (b), and (e)(1)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Health – General**

17 7.5–210.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (2) "Eligible individual" means:

2 (i) [An active] A service member;

3 (ii) A veteran;

4 (iii) The spouse of [an active] A service member or veteran;

5 (iv) A child of [an active] A service member or veteran; or

6 (v) A stepchild of [an active] A service member or veteran.

7 (3) "Program" means the Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services
8 Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans.

9 (b) (1) There is a Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant
10 Program for Service Members and Veterans.

11 (2) The purpose of the Program is to provide funds to local nonprofit
12 organizations to establish and expand community behavioral health programs to serve
13 [active] service members, veterans, and their families.

14 (e) (1) To be eligible for a grant from the Program, a nonprofit organization
15 must have a mission to:

16 (i) Provide behavioral health services; or

17 (ii) Provide services to [active] service members, veterans, or their
18 families.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.