

SENATE BILL 554

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3lr0136
CF HB 553

By: **The President (By Request – Administration) and Senators Jackson, Bailey, Beidle, Benson, Brooks, Carozza, Corderman, Elfreth, Ellis, Gallion, Gile, Hershey, Hester, Hettleman, James, Jennings, King, Klausmeier, McKay, Muse, Ready, Rosapepe, Salling, Smith, Waldstreicher, M. Washington, and West**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2023

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland National Guard – Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program –**
3 **Establishment**
4 **(Health Care for Heroes Act of 2023)**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing the Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program in the
6 Military Department for the Department to award grants to reimburse certain
7 members of the National Guard for the cost of premiums for certain health care and
8 dental care plans; requiring the Department to adopt regulations to administer and
9 implement the Program; and generally relating to the Tricare Premium
10 Reimbursement Program.

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Public Safety
13 Section 13–411
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2022 Replacement Volume)

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

18 **Article – Public Safety**

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 13-411.

2 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO
3 IS:

4 (1) ELIGIBLE FOR TRICARE RESERVE SELECT COVERAGE; AND

5 (2) A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.

6 (B) THERE IS A TRICARE PREMIUM REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM IN THE
7 DEPARTMENT.

8 (C) ~~THE~~ SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT
9 MAY AWARD GRANTS TO AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT WHO MEETS THE REIMBURSEMENT
10 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

11 (1) A PREMIUM PAID FOR INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE THROUGH THE
12 TRICARE RESERVE SELECT PROGRAM;

13 (2) A PREMIUM PAID FOR ANY MEMBER OF THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY
14 OF AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT COVERED UNDER THE TRICARE RESERVE SELECT
15 PROGRAM;

16 (3) A PREMIUM PAID FOR INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE UNDER THE
17 TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM; OR

18 (4) A PREMIUM PAID FOR ANY MEMBER OF THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY
19 OF AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT RECEIVING DENTAL BENEFITS UNDER THE TRICARE
20 DENTAL PROGRAM.

21 (D) A GRANT AWARD TO AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT MAY REIMBURSE THE
22 ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT FOR UP TO \$60 OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF PREMIUMS PAID
23 EACH MONTH BY THE ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT FOR THE COVERAGES LISTED UNDER
24 SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

25 ~~(D)~~ (E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT
26 AND ADMINISTER THE TRICARE PREMIUM REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM
27 ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
29 1, 2023.