

# SENATE BILL 615

P1

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By: **Senators Simonaire, Ready, Salling, Jennings, Lam, Hershey, Hester, Gallion, Folden, Augustine, McKay, Jackson, Lewis Young, ~~and Brooks~~ Brooks, Carozza, and M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Maryland Veterans Suicide**  
3 **~~Awareness~~ Prevention Day**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to annually proclaim a certain day as Maryland  
5 Veterans Suicide ~~Awareness~~ Prevention Day.

6 BY renumbering

7 Article – General Provisions

8 Section 7–416 through 7–420

9 to be Section 7–417 through 7–421, respectively

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY adding to

13 Article – General Provisions

14 Section 7–416

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 Preamble

18 WHEREAS, Too many veterans’ lives are lost to suicide; and

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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 WHEREAS, Family members, veterans, service members, and others need to take  
2 action when they believe a veteran is at risk of suicide; and

3 WHEREAS, There needs to be greater awareness of veteran suicide and the tools  
4 available to help veterans; now, therefore,

5 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
6 That Section(s) 7–416 through 7–420 of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code  
7 of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–417 through 7–421, respectively.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
9 as follows:

10 **Article – General Provisions**

11 **7–416.**

12 **(A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM ~~JULY 11~~ SEPTEMBER 30**  
13 **AS MARYLAND VETERANS SUICIDE ~~AWARENESS~~ PREVENTION DAY.**

14 **(B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL DECLARE MARYLAND VETERANS SUICIDE**  
15 **~~AWARENESS~~ PREVENTION DAY:**

16 **(1) A DAY OF REFLECTION, RECOLLECTION, AND DETERMINATION**  
17 **FOR MARYLAND VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS, FAMILY MEMBERS, AND ALL**  
18 **MARYLANDERS TO REMEMBER THE HUMAN TRAGEDY THAT IS ASSOCIATED WITH**  
19 **VETERAN SUICIDE; AND**

20 **(2) A PLEDGE TO OUR VETERAN COMMUNITY TO:**

21 **(I) WORK TO DESTIGMATIZE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT;**

22 **(II) CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WITH MENTAL**  
23 **HEALTH ISSUES TO SPEAK FREELY AND GET THE SUPPORT THEY NEED; AND**

24 **(III) ENCOURAGE VETERANS TO REACH OUT FOR HELP.**

25 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
26 1, 2024.