

Chapter 261

(Senate Bill 280)

AN ACT concerning

Judicial and Public Safety 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 judicial proceedings, corrections, criminal, family, public safety, and real property laws to apply to all uniformed services, rather than only the armed forces; and generally relating to veterans and uniformed services.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Correctional Services
Section 2–109
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 3–804, 5–642, 7–406, 8–302, and 9–501(a)(8)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 8–101(a) and 9–501(a)(1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 8–101(a–1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Criminal Law
Section 1–101(a) and 4–111(a)(1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Criminal Law
Section 1–101(k) and 4–111(a)(8)

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Criminal Law
Section 4–111(a)(8) and (b)(3) and 8–303(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Family Law
Section 1–101(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Family Law
Section 1–101(j), (k), and (o)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Family Law
Section 1–101(j), (k), and (l), 2–405(d), 5–525(b)(3)(i), and 9–108(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 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, without amendments,
Article – Public Safety
Section 1–101(a), 2–418(a)(1), 13A–101(a), and 14–101(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Public Safety

Section 1–101(a–1), (a–2), (d–1), (f), and (g)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Public Safety

Section 1–202(a–1) and (e), 2–418(a)(2), 3–209(a)(5)(ii), 5–102(4), 5–103(2)(ii), 5–117.1(a)(3) and (c)(1)(iii), 5–132(b)(1)(ii), 5–133(d)(2)(iii), 5–134(c)(3), 5–137(b)(2), 5–203(a)(1)(ii), 5–204.1(a)(1)(iii), 5–306(a)(1)(ii) and (b)(2), 11–105(c), 13–205, 13–215(a), 13–503(b)(2), 13–510(b)(1), (c)(2), and (d), 13–601(a)(2), 13–704.1, 13–902(a), 13–904(a), 13A–101(k)(1)(i), 13A–506(c)(1)(i), 13A–1009(a)(3)(i), 13A–1041(b)(2), 13A–1102(b)(6), and 14–101(d)(2)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Real Property

Section 8–212.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2023 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 – Correctional Services

2–109.

(a) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

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

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

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

(B) The Secretary shall adopt regulations for the office of the Secretary.

[(b)] (C) (1) The Secretary shall review regulations proposed by a unit in the Department.

(2) The Secretary may approve, disapprove, or revise regulations proposed by a unit in the Department.

[(c)] (D) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Secretary shall adopt regulations to govern the policies and management of correctional facilities in the Department in accordance with Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply to a guideline pertaining to the routine internal management of correctional facilities in the Division of Correction.

(3) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the Secretary shall adopt regulations that provide for a requirement that:

1. a correctional officer hired on or after October 1, 2007, for employment in any unit of the Division of Correction shall be at least 21 years old; and

2. a correctional officer hired on or after October 1, 2008, for employment in any unit of the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services or the Patuxent Institution shall be at least 21 years old.

(ii) The regulations adopted under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph shall exempt any ~~[(honorably discharged)]~~ veteran or **HONORABLY DISCHARGED** reserve **COMPONENT** member of the [United States armed forces] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** from the minimum age requirement.

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

3–804.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “UNIFORMED SERVICES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9–901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

[(a)] (B) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the court has jurisdiction under this subtitle only if the alleged CINA or child in a voluntary placement is under the age of 18 years when the petition is filed.

(2) The court has jurisdiction under this subtitle over a former CINA:

(i) Whose commitment to the local department was rescinded after the individual reached the age of 18 years but before the individual reached the age of 20 years and 6 months; and

(ii) Who did not exit foster care due to reunification, adoption, guardianship, marriage, or [military duty] ~~SERVICE IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES~~
UNIFORMED SERVICES DUTY.

[(b)] (C) If the court obtains jurisdiction over a child, that jurisdiction continues in that case until the child reaches the age of 21 years, unless the court terminates the case.

[(c)] (D) After the court terminates jurisdiction, a custody order issued by the court in a CINA case:

(1) Remains in effect; and

(2) May be revised or superseded only by another court of competent jurisdiction.

[(d)] (E) Notwithstanding subsection **[(b)] (C)** of this section, if the court enters an order directing the provision of services to a child under § 3–819(c)(3) or § 3–823(h)(2)(vii) of this subtitle, the court retains jurisdiction to rule on any motion related to the enforcement, modification, or termination of the order, for as long as the order is effective.

5–642.

(a) IN THIS SECTION, “VETERAN” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9–901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(B) A licensed funeral establishment or holder of a permit to engage in the business of a crematory who acts in good faith is not civilly liable for transferring the unclaimed cremated remains of a veteran or an eligible dependent of a veteran to a veterans service organization for purposes of disposition as provided in § 5–803 of the Business Regulation Article and § 7–406 of the Health Occupations Article.

[(b)] (C) A veterans service organization that acts in good faith is not civilly liable for receiving the unclaimed cremated remains of a veteran or an eligible dependent of a veteran for purposes of disposition as provided in § 5–803 of the Business Regulation Article and § 7–406 of the Health Occupations Article.

7–406.

(a) **(1)** In this section, ~~“armed forces” means the armed forces of the United States]~~ **“UNIFORMED SERVICES” HAS THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

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

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

(b) A clerk of court shall provide without charge:

(1) A copy of any paper or record in the clerk’s office that is requested by a former or active [armed forces] **SERVICE** member ~~OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES~~, in person, or by the United States government, if the copy is to be used in connection with a claim of the **FORMER OR ACTIVE SERVICE** member against the United States government;

(2) A copy of a marriage record of a former or active [armed forces] **SERVICE** member ~~OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES~~ that is requested by the **FORMER OR ACTIVE SERVICE** member; and

(3) A copy of a marriage record of a former or active [armed forces] **SERVICE** member ~~OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES~~ or of a surviving spouse or child of the **FORMER OR ACTIVE SERVICE** member that is requested, if the copy is to be used in connection with a claim for a dependent or beneficiary of the **FORMER OR ACTIVE SERVICE** member.

8-101.

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

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

8-302.

(a) In accordance with an agreement, if any, under § 8-213 of this title, a juror qualification form in substantially the following form shall be provided to each prospective juror:

Juror Qualification Form

Name:

Resident address:

Telephone: (home) _____ (work) _____ (cellular) _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

If you are over 70 years of age, do you wish to be exempted from jury services?
_____ Yes _____ No

U.S. Citizen? _____ Yes _____ No

Able to comprehend, read, speak, and write English? _____ Yes _____ No

Highest level of education completed:

____ high school ____ college ____ graduate school ____ other

Occupation of prospective juror: _____

Name of employer: _____

Occupation of spouse, if any: _____

Disability preventing satisfactory jury service? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you want an accommodation under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act? _____ Yes _____ No

Pending charge for a crime punishable by imprisonment exceeding 1 year?
_____ Yes _____ No

Conviction of crime punishable by imprisonment exceeding 1 year and received a sentence of imprisonment for more than 1 year and not legally pardoned?
_____ Yes _____ No

Date of Conviction _____

____ Elected official of the federal Legislative Branch, as defined in 2 U.S.C. § 30a.

____ Active duty member of armed forces, **AS DEFINED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE**, exempted in accordance with 10 U.S.C. § 982.

ACTIVE DUTY MEMBER OF THE COMMISSIONED CORPS OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, EXEMPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 10 U.S.C. § 982, AS MADE APPLICABLE BY 33 U.S.C. § 307(A)(6).

 Member of Maryland's organized militia exempted in accordance with Public Safety Article § 13-218.

Prior jury service within 3 preceding years: _____

Form completed by me _____ Another (name) _____ and, if another, why?

Under the penalties of perjury, the responses are true to the best of my knowledge

Signed: _____

Prospective Juror

Individual completing form for prospective juror:

This form must be completed, signed, and returned to the jury commissioner within 10 days after receipt. Documentation for excusal due to disability, exemption based on armed forces or militia service, pardons, and/or prior jury service must be attached.

(b) A juror qualification form for a county may include other questions as the county's jury plan requires.

9-501.

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

(8) "Veteran" [means a person who served on active duty in the uniformed services of the United States, other than for training, and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable] **HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

Article – Criminal Law

1-101.

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

(K) **"VETERAN" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

4-111.

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

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

[(8)] (9) “Special purpose area” means:

- (i) a location licensed to sell or dispense alcohol or cannabis for on-site consumption;
- (ii) a stadium;
- (iii) a museum;
- (iv) an amusement park;
- (v) a racetrack; or
- (vi) a video lottery facility, as defined in § 9–1A–01 of the State Government Article.

(b) This section does not apply to:

(3) a **SERVICE** member [of the armed forces of the United States, the National Guard, or the uniformed services] on duty or traveling to or from duty;
8–303.

(a) **(1)** In this section[, “government”] **THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

(2) “GOVERNMENT identification document” means one of the following documents issued by the United States government or any state or local government:

- [(1)] (I)** a passport;
- [(2)] (II)** an immigration visa;
- [(3)] (III)** an alien registration card;
- [(4)] (IV)** an employment authorization card;
- [(5)] (V)** a birth certificate;

[(6)] (VI) a Social Security card;

[(7)] (VII) a [military] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** identification;

[(8)] (VIII) an adoption decree;

[(9)] (IX) a marriage license;

[(10)] (X) a driver's license; or

[(11)] (XI) a photo identification card.

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

Article – Family Law

1–101.

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

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

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

[(j)] (L) “State” means, except in Title 10, Subtitle 3 of this article:

(1) a state, commonwealth, possession, or territory of the United States; or

(2) the District of Columbia.

[(k)] (M) “Summons” includes a subpoena.

[(l)] (N) “Support” includes maintenance.

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

2–405.

(d) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a license is not effective until 6 a.m. on the second calendar day after the license is issued.

(2) For good cause shown, a judge of the circuit court for the county in which the application is made may sign an authorization for a license to become effective at a time before the waiting period expires, as stated in the authorization, if 1 of the parties to be married is:

- (i) a resident of this State; or
- (ii) a **SERVICE** member [of the United States armed forces].

5–525.

(b) (3) (i) The Administration shall establish a program of out-of-home placement for former CINAs:

1. whose commitment to a local department was rescinded after the individuals reached the age of 18 years but before the individuals reached the age of 20 years and 6 months; and

2. who did not exit foster care due to reunification, adoption, guardianship, marriage, or [military duty] ~~SERVICE IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES~~ **UNIFORMED SERVICES DUTY**.

9–108.

(a) **(1)** In this section[:

(1)], “deployment” means compliance with [military] **OFFICIAL** orders received by a **SERVICE** member [of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, or any other Reserve component] to report for combat operations or other active service for which the **SERVICE** member is required to report unaccompanied by any family member or that is classified by the **SERVICE** member’s branch as remote[; and].

(2) [“deployment”] **“DEPLOYMENT”** does not include [National Guard or Reserve] **RESERVE COMPONENT** annual training, inactive duty days, or drill weekends.

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 – Public Safety

1-101.

(a) In this article 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) “ARMED FORCES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

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

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

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

1-202.

(a-1) For purposes of this section, an individual served in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict if the individual was a 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, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the United States Secretary of Defense; or

(2) Iraq or contiguous waters or air space, as defined in federal regulations, on or after March 19, 2003, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the United States Secretary of Defense.

(e) (1) The Secretary of State shall issue a State flag to the family of a firefighter, policeman, member of the [military] **UNIFORMED SERVICES**, sworn member of the office of State Fire Marshal, or professional or volunteer emergency medical services provider who is killed in the performance of duty.

(2) (i) Except when the deceased is a member of the [military] **UNIFORMED SERVICES**, the flag shall be presented to the family of the deceased by the State Senator of the legislative district in which the deceased resided or served.

(ii) When the deceased is a member of the [military] **UNIFORMED SERVICES**, the flag shall be presented to the family of the deceased by the Department of Veterans and Military Families.

2-418.

(a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, a police employee who resigns from the Department for any reason may not be reappointed.

(2) A police employee who resigns to enter [military] ~~service~~ **IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES** may be reappointed.

3-209.

(a) The Commission shall certify as a police officer each individual who:

(5) (ii) subject to subsection (b) of this section, is a permanent legal resident of the United States and ~~an honorably discharged~~ **A** veteran [of the United States armed forces], provided that the individual has applied to obtain United States citizenship and the application is still pending approval.

5-102.

This subtitle does not apply to:

(4) law enforcement personnel of any unit of the federal government, members of the armed forces [of the United States] or the National Guard, or law enforcement personnel of the State or any local agency in the State, while those personnel or members are acting within the scope of their official duties;

5-103.

This subtitle does not affect:

(2) a sale, rental, transfer, or the use of a regulated firearm by a person authorized or required to do so as part of the person's duties as a member of:

(ii) the armed forces [of the United States], including all official reserve organizations; or

5-117.1.

(a) This section does not apply to:

(3) a member or retired member of the armed forces [of the United States] or the National Guard; or

(c) A person may purchase, rent, or receive a handgun only if the person:

(1) (iii) is an active or retired member of the armed forces [of the United States] or the National Guard and possesses a valid [military] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** identification card; or

5-132.

(b) This section does not apply to:

(1) the purchase, sale, or transportation of a handgun to or by a federally licensed gun dealer or manufacturer that provides or services a handgun for:

(ii) members of the armed forces [of the United States] or the National Guard;

5-133.

(d) (2) Unless a person is otherwise prohibited from possessing a regulated firearm, this subsection does not apply to:

(iii) a member of the armed forces [of the United States] or the National Guard while performing official duties;

5-134.

(c) A person is not required to complete a certified firearms safety training course under subsection (b)(14) of this section if the person:

(3) is a member, retired member, or honorably discharged member of the armed forces [of the United States] or the National Guard;

5-137.

(b) If a person purchases a regulated firearm for use within the scope of the person's official duties, the Secretary may waive the 7-day waiting period under § 5-124 of this subtitle for:

(2) members of the armed forces [of the United States] or the National Guard; or

5-203.

(a) A person may not possess a short-barreled rifle or short-barreled shotgun unless:

(1) the person, while on official business is:

(ii) a member of the armed forces [of the United States] or the National Guard while on duty or traveling to or from duty;

5–204.1.

(a) This section does not apply to:

(1) a sale, rental, or transfer:

(iii) involving law enforcement personnel of any unit of the federal government, a member of the armed forces [of the United States], a member of the National Guard, or law enforcement personnel of the State or any local agency in the State, while acting in the scope of official duty;

5–306.

(a) Subject to subsections (c) and (d) of this section, the Secretary shall issue a permit within a reasonable time to a person who the Secretary finds:

(1) (ii) is a person who is a member of [the armed forces of the United States, the National Guard, or] the uniformed services **OR THE NATIONAL GUARD**;

(b) An applicant for a permit is not required to complete a certified firearms training course under subsection (a) of this section if the applicant:

(2) is a member, retired member, or honorably discharged member of the armed forces [of the United States] or the National Guard;

11–105.

(c) This section does not apply to the armed forces [of the United States], the National Guard, the State Guard, or officers or employees of the United States, the State, or a local subdivision of the State who are authorized to handle explosives in the performance of their duties.

13–205.

Subject to the provisions of this title and the regulations governing the armed forces [of the United States], an individual may be enlisted in the organized militia if the individual:

(1) is a citizen of the State or has declared an intention to become a citizen of the State;

(2) is able-bodied; and

- (3) has good character and temperate habits.

13-215.

(a) (1) The Adjutant General may organize a uniformed honor guard from the National Guard or the organized militia to attend the burial service of a deceased veteran if:

(i) the commander of an accredited veterans' organization or a relative or friend of the deceased veteran requests an honor guard to attend the burial service;

(ii) a uniformed honor guard from the active [armed forces] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** or veterans' organization is not available; and

(iii) the Adjutant General determines that providing an honor guard will not harm:

1. the readiness of the National Guard in the event of a State or federal emergency; or

2. the employment of a National Guard member.

(2) If an honor guard from the active [armed forces] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** is not available, the Adjutant General may request an honor guard from a veterans' organization to attend the burial service of a deceased veteran.

13-503.

(b) An individual may not be commissioned or enlisted in the Maryland Defense Force if the individual:

(2) has been dismissed from or received a bad conduct discharge or a dishonorable discharge, or any discharge other than under honorable conditions, from a military or naval organization of this State or of another state, or from any of the [United States armed forces] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** or its auxiliaries, or has been convicted of an offense under the laws of the United States or of any state punishable by imprisonment for more than 1 year, no matter what punishment was actually imposed; or

13-510.

(b) (1) Each individual commissioned or appointed as an officer or warrant officer [shall] **MUST** be:

(i) an officer, warrant officer, or enlisted individual of the National Guard;

(ii) a retired or former officer or warrant officer of the [United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, or Coast Guard] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** or any auxiliary thereof;

(iii) an individual with prior ~~[enlisted]~~ service in the [United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, or Coast Guard,] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** or [any auxiliary thereof] **A RESERVE COMPONENT**;

(iv) a graduate of the United States Military Academy, Naval Academy, Coast Guard Academy, Merchant Marine Academy, [or] Air Force Academy, **OR UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY**;

(v) a graduate of a school, college, university, or officers' training school who received [military] instruction under the supervision of an officer of the [United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, or Coast Guard] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** who certified the graduate's fitness for appointment as a commissioned officer; or

(vi) an individual not otherwise identified in items (i) through (v) of this paragraph who is specially qualified for service by achievement in any professional, technical, or public service capacity or otherwise displays extraordinary qualifications for commissioning as an officer of the Maryland Defense Force.

(c) When initially appointed, a general officer or colonel of the organized militia must:

(2) have served in [any component or auxiliary of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, or Coast Guard or National Guard] **THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR A RESERVE COMPONENT** with the grade of O-4 or higher.

(d) When initially appointed, a lieutenant-colonel or major of the line must have had service as an officer for at least 2 years in [any component or auxiliary of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, or Coast Guard or National Guard] **THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR A RESERVE COMPONENT**.

13-601.

(a) (2) The Governor may grant a brevet commission to an officer of the organized militia of a grade equal to the highest grade in which the officer previously served in the organized militia or in the [United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, or Coast Guard] **ARMED FORCES**.

13-704.1.

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

(2) “**ELIGIBLE SERVICE MEMBER**” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL ENGAGED IN MILITARY SERVICE.

(3) “**ELIGIBLE SPOUSE**” MEANS THE SPOUSE OF AN ELIGIBLE SERVICE MEMBER.

[(2)] (4) “Military service” means:

(i) in the case of [a service member] **AN INDIVIDUAL** who is a member or reserve member of the [Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard] **ARMED FORCES**, full-time duty in the active military service [of the United States], including:

1. full-time training duty;
2. annual training duty; and
3. attendance while at a school designated as a service school by federal law or by the secretary of the military department concerned;

(ii) in the case of a resident of the State who is a member [or reserve member of the Maryland National Guard, the National Guard of another state, or] **OF** a reserve component of the [armed forces] **UNIFORMED SERVICES**, service under a call to:

1. active service authorized by the President of the United States [or], the Secretary of Defense, **OR THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** for a period of more than 30 days in response to a national emergency declared by the President of the United States; or
2. active duty for a period of more than 30 consecutive days;

(iii) in the case of [a service member] **AN INDIVIDUAL** who is a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, active service; or

(iv) any period during which [a service member] **AN INDIVIDUAL** is absent from duty on account of sickness, wounds, leave, or other lawful cause.

[(3)] “Military spouse” means the spouse of a service member.

(4) “Service member” means an individual engaged in military service.]

(b) This section is intended to supplement rights and protections provided in the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.).

(c) (1) In addition to the rights and protections regarding consumer transactions, contracts, and service providers included in Title III of the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 531 through 538), [a] **AN ELIGIBLE** service member or [military] **ELIGIBLE** spouse may terminate a contract described in paragraph (2) of this subsection at any time after the date the **ELIGIBLE** service member receives [military] **OFFICIAL** orders to relocate for a period of military service of at least 90 days to a location where the **ELIGIBLE** service member would be unable to use the services under the contract.

(2) This section applies to a contract to provide any of the following:

- (i) telecommunication services;
- (ii) Internet services;
- (iii) television services;
- (iv) athletic club or gym memberships; and
- (v) satellite radio services.

(3) (i) [A] **AN ELIGIBLE** service member or [military] **ELIGIBLE** spouse may terminate a contract under this section by delivering a written or electronic notice of the termination and a copy of the **ELIGIBLE** service member's [military] **OFFICIAL** orders to the service provider.

(ii) If [a] **AN ELIGIBLE** service member or [military] **ELIGIBLE** spouse terminates a contract, the service provider shall provide the **ELIGIBLE** service member or [military] **ELIGIBLE** spouse with a written or electronic notice of the **ELIGIBLE** service member's rights posted on the Maryland National Guard's Internet website.

(d) (1) If [a] **AN ELIGIBLE** service member or [military] **ELIGIBLE** spouse terminates or suspends the provision of services under this section and the **ELIGIBLE** service member is no longer in [active] military service, the **ELIGIBLE** service member or [military] **ELIGIBLE** spouse may reinstate the provision of service on the same terms and conditions as originally agreed to with the service provider before the termination or suspension on written notice to the provider that the **ELIGIBLE** service member is no longer in [active] military service.

(2) Written notice under this subsection shall be given within 90 days after termination of the **ELIGIBLE** service member's [active] military service.

(e) [A] **AN ELIGIBLE** service member or [military] **ELIGIBLE** spouse who terminates, suspends, or reinstates the provision of services under this section:

(1) may not be charged a penalty, fee, loss of deposit, or any other additional cost because of the termination, suspension, or reinstatement; and

(2) is not liable for payment for any services after the effective date of the termination or suspension, until the effective date of any reinstatement of services.

13-902.

(a) This section does not apply to a member of the [United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Space Force, or Coast Guard] **UNIFORMED SERVICES**, the organized militia of this State or another state, an officer of the Maryland Defense Force, or a member of associations wholly composed of [soldiers] **SERVICE MEMBERS, AS DEFINED IN § 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE**, honorably discharged from the [armed forces of the United States] **UNIFORMED SERVICES**.

13-904.

(a) A person who is the owner or who is an agent of the owner of a place of amusement or recreation open to the public may not refuse admission to an officer or enlisted individual of the [United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, or Air Force] **UNIFORMED SERVICES** or the organized militia of this State or of another state because the officer or enlisted individual is in uniform.

13A-101.

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

(k) “Judge advocate” means a commissioned officer of the organized state military forces who is a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a state:

(1) (i) certified or designated as a judge advocate in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps of the [Army, Air Force, Navy, Space Force, or the Marine Corps] **ARMED FORCES** or designated as a law specialist as an officer of the Coast Guard, or a reserve component of one of these; or

13A-506.

(c) In the instance when a defense counsel is not a member of the bar of the highest court of the state, the defense counsel shall be deemed admitted pro hac vice, subject to filing a certificate with the military judge setting forth the qualifications that counsel is:

(1) (i) a commissioned officer of the armed forces [of the United States] or a component thereof;

13A–1009.

(a) A member of the State military forces is guilty of desertion if the member:

(3) without being regularly separated from one of the State military forces:

(i) enlists or accepts an appointment in the same or another one of the State military forces, or in one of the [armed forces of the United States] **UNIFORMED SERVICES**, without fully disclosing the fact that the member has not been regularly separated; or

13A–1041.

(b) The substances referred to in subsection (a) of this section are:

(2) any substance not specified in item (1) of this subsection that is listed on a schedule of controlled substances prescribed by the President for the purposes of the Uniform Code of Military Justice of the armed forces [of the United States], 10 U.S.C. § 801 et seq.; and

13A–1102.

(b) The following persons may administer oaths necessary in the performance of their duties:

(6) all other persons designated by regulations of the armed forces [of the United States] or by statute.

14–101.

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

(d) (2) “Emergency management” does not include the preparation for and carrying out of functions in an emergency for which [military forces] **THE UNIFORMED SERVICES** are primarily responsible.

Article – Real Property

8–212.1.

(a) (1) In this section[, “change”] **THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

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

(3) **“ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER” MEANS “SERVICE MEMBER” AS DEFINED IN § 9–901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

(4) **“CHANGE of assignment” includes:**

[(1)] (I) Permanent change of station orders;

[(2)] (II) Temporary duty orders for a period exceeding 90 days;

[(3)] (III) Orders requiring a person to move into quarters located on a military installation; and

[(4)] (IV) A release from active duty, including:

[(i)] 1. Retirement;

[(ii)] 2. Separation or discharge under honorable conditions; and

[(iii)] 3. Demobilization of an activated [reservist or a member of the National Guard] **MEMBER OF A RESERVE COMPONENT** who was serving on active duty orders for at least 180 consecutive days.

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

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, if [a person who is on active duty with the United States military, or the person’s] **AN ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER OR THE ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER’S spouse**[,] enters into a residential lease of property and the [person] **ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER** subsequently receives a change of assignment, before or after occupying the property, any liability of the [person, or the person’s] **ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER OR THE ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBER’S spouse**, for rent under the lease may not exceed:

(1) Any rent or lawful charges then due and payable plus 30 days’ rent after written notice and proof of the change of assignment is given to the landlord; and

(2) The cost of repairing damage to the premises caused by an act or omission of the tenant.

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.

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

[(b)] (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 October 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.