

HOUSE BILL 274

J1, P1

7lr0347

By: **Delegates Queen, Angel, Folden, Frush, C. Howard, Korman, Luedtke, Patterson, and C. Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2017

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Veterans – Availability and Accessibility of Health Care Services and**
3 **Transportation – Study**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in
5 cooperation with the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, to conduct a study
6 on the availability and accessibility of health care services to meet the health care
7 needs of veterans in the State and the availability and accessibility of transportation
8 to the health care services; requiring the study to include certain items, identify
9 certain gaps, and identify certain options; requiring the Department of Health and
10 Mental Hygiene to report, on or before a certain date, to certain legislative
11 committees on the results of its study; and generally relating to a study of health
12 care services and transportation to health care services for veterans.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That:

15 (a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in cooperation with the
16 Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, shall conduct a study on the availability and
17 accessibility of health care services to meet the health care needs, particularly the
18 behavioral health care needs, of veterans in the State and the availability and accessibility
19 of transportation to the health care services.

20 (b) The study shall:

21 (1) include the availability and accessibility of health care services and
22 transportation provided through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, State or local
23 government programs, or privately supported or volunteer programs;

24 (2) identify gaps in the availability and accessibility of health care services
25 and transportation to the health care services; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) identify options, including the use of federal and other funds that may
2 be available but are not being used, for filling the identified gaps.

3 (c) On or before January 1, 2018, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
4 shall report, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate
5 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and
6 Government Operations Committee on the results of its study.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
8 1, 2017.