

HOUSE BILL 1262

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8lr1328

By: **Delegates Hucker, Bronrott, Donoghue, Feldman, Hubbard, Kullen, Manno, McConkey, Montgomery, Nathan-Pulliam, Pena-Melnyk, Ramirez, Reznik, Schuler, Valderrama, and Weir**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2008

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Behavioral Health Services for**
3 **Veterans of War in Iraq or Afghanistan**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to
5 establish a program to provide behavioral health services for certain veterans;
6 authorizing the behavioral health services to be provided through certain
7 mechanisms; requiring the Department to work with the State Department of
8 Veterans Affairs and certain organizations to identify certain veterans in need
9 of benefits from the program; and generally relating to behavioral health
10 services for veterans.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Health – General

13 Section 13–2701 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 27. Behavioral Health
14 Services for Veterans of War in Iraq or Afghanistan”

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Health – General**

20 **SUBTITLE 27. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR VETERANS OF WAR IN**
21 **IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN.**

22 **13–2701.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE**
2 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES TO UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES VETERANS**
3 **OF THE WAR IN IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN WHO HAVE:**

4 **(1) RESIDED IN THE STATE FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS; AND**

5 **(2) BEEN DENIED BENEFITS BY THE UNITED STATES**
6 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR A REASON RELATING TO SUBSTANCE**
7 **ABUSE OR MENTAL ILLNESS.**

8 **(B) THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES MAY BE PROVIDED THROUGH:**

9 **(1) THE PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM;**

10 **(2) ALCOHOL ABUSE AND DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAMS**
11 **AND FACILITIES THAT RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE STATE UNDER TITLE 8 OF**
12 **THIS ARTICLE; OR**

13 **(3) ANOTHER APPROPRIATE MECHANISM.**

14 **(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL WORK WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF**
15 **VETERANS AFFAIRS AND ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS TO IDENTIFY UNITED**
16 **STATES ARMED FORCES VETERANS OF THE WAR IN IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN IN**
17 **NEED OF BENEFITS FROM THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2008.