

# CHAPTER 556

(House Bill 372)

AN ACT concerning

## Maryland Veterans Behavioral Health

FOR the purpose of establishing behavioral health service coordination among the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, the Maryland National Guard, and the Maryland Defense Force for certain veterans of the Afghanistan or Iraq conflicts; requiring the provision of certain behavioral health services under certain circumstances in certain areas of the State to veterans of the Afghanistan or Iraq conflicts; requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to seek certain reimbursement for certain services; requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to separately account for certain funds; creating the Veterans Behavioral Health Advisory Board; providing for the composition and chair of the Board; providing for the staffing of the Board; prohibiting members of the Board from receiving compensation but entitling members to reimbursement of certain expenses; establishing the duties of the Board; requiring the Board to submit certain reports to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before certain dates; requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with the Board, to submit a certain application for certain funds on or before a certain date; requiring the Department to submit a copy of the application to the Maryland Congressional Delegation and certain committees of the General Assembly; providing for the termination of this Act; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the behavioral health needs of veterans and their families.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 13-2701 through 13-2703 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 27.

Behavioral Health Services for Maryland Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

### Preamble

WHEREAS, Maryland has a long and proud history of commitment to military service, with over 460,000 veterans who have served the nation in the armed forces; and