



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

State of Maryland
2021 REPORT Chapter 707 of the Acts of 2017
State Government- Department of Veterans Affairs-
Veterans' Services Specialists

Submitted by: The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Chapter 707 of the Acts of 2017

2021 Report to Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and the Maryland General Assembly From: George Owings, Secretary, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Status of the Veterans' Services Specialists in State Government (SB857/HB1275)

Introduced during the 2017 Maryland Legislative Session and signed into law by Governor Hogan on May 25, 2017, SB857/HB1275 created Veterans' Services Specialists in State Government to coordinate services with the Outreach and Advocacy Program Director in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Specialists attend training, provide the Department of Veterans Affairs with certain information and post information on their respective Department or Agency websites. Information required for posting on websites includes veteran services offered by the respective Department or Agency and a link to the Department of Veterans Affairs Outreach and Advocacy Program. The MDVA continues to work with Departments and Agencies to have this information placed on websites.

The Act also requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to coordinate meetings and an annual training, and submit a progress report each January to the Governor and Maryland General Assembly. The Act took effect October 1, 2017.

Meetings were held virtually in February, April, June, and August. Annual training was held virtually in November alongside local county veteran commission leaders. Briefings were shared on the MDVA YouTube Channel.

February 25	Focus on transitional housing for veterans exiting homelessness, The Baltimore Station presentation
April 22	Focus on VA education benefits, Maryland Higher Education Commission presentation
June 24	Focus on VA healthcare eligibility and enrollment, VA Community Living Center, and hospice care, hospitalization and discharge, VA Caregiver Support Program
August 26	Focus on VA benefits, MDVA Benefits Program presentation
November 18	Focus on VA benefits and eligibility for National Guard and Reservists, Legislation, Emergency Rental Assistance Program, Annapolis Vet Center, breakout sessions, and documentary screening/panel discussion, "True North: Honest stories of finding home", a 77 page handbook with data, points of contact, and brief decks was created and shared with participants



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**Joint County Veterans
Commissions/
Veterans Services
Specialist Program
Summit**

Thursday November 18, 2021
8:30am to 1:00pm

Participant Handbook

Goals for CY22

- Hold four quarterly meetings with presentation topics suggested by liaisons
- Hold one annual training combining the ad hoc joint county veteran commission group and VSS program liaisons

Contact

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