

# HOUSE BILL 579

P1, J1  
HB 874/21 – HGO

2lr2531  
CF 2lr2536

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By: **Delegates Cox, Anderton, Arentz, Arikan, Boteler, Buckel, Ghrist, Griffith, Hartman, Hornberger, Howard, Krebs, Mangione, McComas, McKay, Reilly, Rose, Shoemaker, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Military Veterans Trust Fund – CAM for Veterans Grant Program – Established**  
3 **(David Perez Military Heroes Act (End 22 a Day))**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the CAM for Veterans Grant Program; providing for the  
5 purpose of the Program; requiring the Maryland Veterans Trust to implement and  
6 administer the Program; requiring the Trust to expend money from the Maryland  
7 Veterans Trust Fund to provide grants under the Program; and generally relating to  
8 the CAM for Veterans Grant Program and the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – State Government  
11 Section 9–901 and 9–914.2  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2021 Replacement Volume)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
15 Article – State Government  
16 Section 9–913  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2021 Replacement Volume)

19 BY adding to  
20 Article – State Government  
21 Section 9–914.4  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2021 Replacement Volume)

24 Preamble

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, David Perez was a resident of Frederick County, Maryland, and a  
2 veteran of the U.S. Army who served in Iraq from 2005 to 2006, whose passion in life was  
3 helping others; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Perez was known for his enthusiasm, drive, and energy in helping  
5 people in his community, including veterans living with post-traumatic stress disorder and  
6 other mental illnesses, to create more support systems and assistance; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Perez's life was taken far too soon and he deserves to be honored for  
8 his compassion and commitment to the service of others, especially fellow veterans; now,  
9 therefore,

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

12 **Article – State Government**

13 9–901.

- 14 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- 15 (b) “Board” means the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Veterans Trust.
- 16 (c) “Department” means the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- 17 (d) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- 18 (e) “Trust” means the Maryland Veterans Trust [Fund].
- 19 (f) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, “veteran” means an individual  
20 who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, other than for training,  
21 and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

22 9–913.

- 23 (a) In this section, “Fund” means the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.
- 24 (b) (1) There is a Maryland Veterans Trust established for the purpose of  
25 providing monetary and other assistance to:
- 26 (i) veterans and their families; and
- 27 (ii) public and private programs that support veterans and their  
28 families.
- 29 (2) There is a Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

1 (c) The Trust shall be a body corporate and shall have perpetual existence,  
2 subject to modification or termination by the General Assembly if necessary to effectuate  
3 its purpose or if its substantial purpose ceases to exist.

4 (d) The Fund consists of:

5 (1) gifts and grants that the Trust receives under § 9–914.2(a)(1) of this  
6 subtitle; and

7 (2) contributions to the Fund from:

8 (i) the sale of tickets from instant ticket lottery machines under §  
9 9–112(d) of this title;

10 (ii) the donations from video lottery facility players under §  
11 9–1A–04(d)(19) of this title;

12 (iii) the designated fees from special registration plates for recipients  
13 of an individually earned, combat–related armed forces medal under § 13–619.1 of the  
14 Transportation Article; and

15 (iv) civil penalties collected in accordance with § 9–905.1 of this  
16 subtitle.

17 (e) Money in the Fund may only be used to:

18 (1) make grants and loans under § 9–914.2(a)(3) of this subtitle;

19 (2) be invested under § 9–914.3(b) of this subtitle; and

20 (3) pay the costs of administering the Fund through distribution to an  
21 administrative cost account in the Department.

22 (f) Money expended from the Fund is not intended to take the place of funding  
23 that would otherwise be appropriated to the Department.

24 9–914.2.

25 (a) The Trust shall have the powers and duties to:

26 (1) solicit and accept any gift, grant, legacy, or endowment of money from  
27 the federal government, State government, local government, or any private source in  
28 furtherance of the Trust;

29 (2) maintain the Fund, which shall consist of any gift, grant, legacy, or  
30 endowment provided to the Trust under item (1) of this subsection;

1 (3) expend money from the Fund to provide grants or loans [to]:

2 (i) TO veterans and their families;

3 (ii) TO public and private programs that support veterans and their  
4 families; [or]

5 (III) UNDER THE CAM FOR VETERANS GRANT PROGRAM UNDER  
6 § 9-914.4 OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR

7 [(iii)] (IV) TO any other programs that the Trust considers to be  
8 within the purpose for which the Trust is established;

9 (4) develop projects for sponsorship by corporate and business  
10 organizations or private individuals;

11 (5) make, execute, and enter into any contract or other legal instrument;

12 (6) receive appropriations as provided in the State budget;

13 (7) acquire, hold, use, improve, and convey property;

14 (8) lease and maintain an office at a place within the State that the Trust  
15 designates;

16 (9) adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its  
17 business;

18 (10) take any other action necessary to carry out the purposes of the Trust;

19 (11) sue and be sued, but only to enforce contractual or similar agreements  
20 with the Trust; and

21 (12) submit a report on or before August 31 of each year to the Governor  
22 and, subject to § 2-1257 of this article, to the General Assembly, with recommendations or  
23 requests deemed appropriate to further the purposes of the Trust, and a description of the  
24 activities of the Trust during the preceding year, including:

25 (i) the gross amount of gifts and grants credited to the Trust;

26 (ii) the costs of administration of the Trust; and

27 (iii) a detailed accounting of the use of the Trust.

28 (b) The Trust may carry out its corporate purposes without obtaining the consent  
29 of any department, board, or agency of the State.

1 (c) In exercising its powers, the Trust is exempt from the provisions of Division  
2 II of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

3 **9-914.4.**

4 (A) **THERE IS A CAM FOR VETERANS GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 (B) **THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO VETERANS**  
6 **SUFFERING FROM POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, OR**  
7 **STRESS SEEKING RELIEF THROUGH AND NEEDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO**  
8 **OBTAIN COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICAL TREATMENTS.**

9 (C) **THE TRUST SHALL IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM IN**  
10 **ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.**

11 (D) **THE TRUST SHALL EXPEND MONEY FROM THE FUND UNDER § 9-913 OF**  
12 **THIS SUBTITLE TO PROVIDE GRANTS FOR THE PROGRAM.**

13 (E) **THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE**  
14 **REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING:**

15 (1) **APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESSES; AND**

16 (2) **ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS.**

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
18 October 1, 2022.