

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 119
Finance

(Senator Simonaire, *et al.*)

Economic Matters

**Business Regulation - Business Discounts and Preferences for Veterans -
Identification**

This bill requires a business registered with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation that offers a discount or preference on products or services to veterans to accept a valid driver's license or a specified identification card that includes a notation of veteran status as verification of the veteran status of the individual for purposes of claiming the discount or preference.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

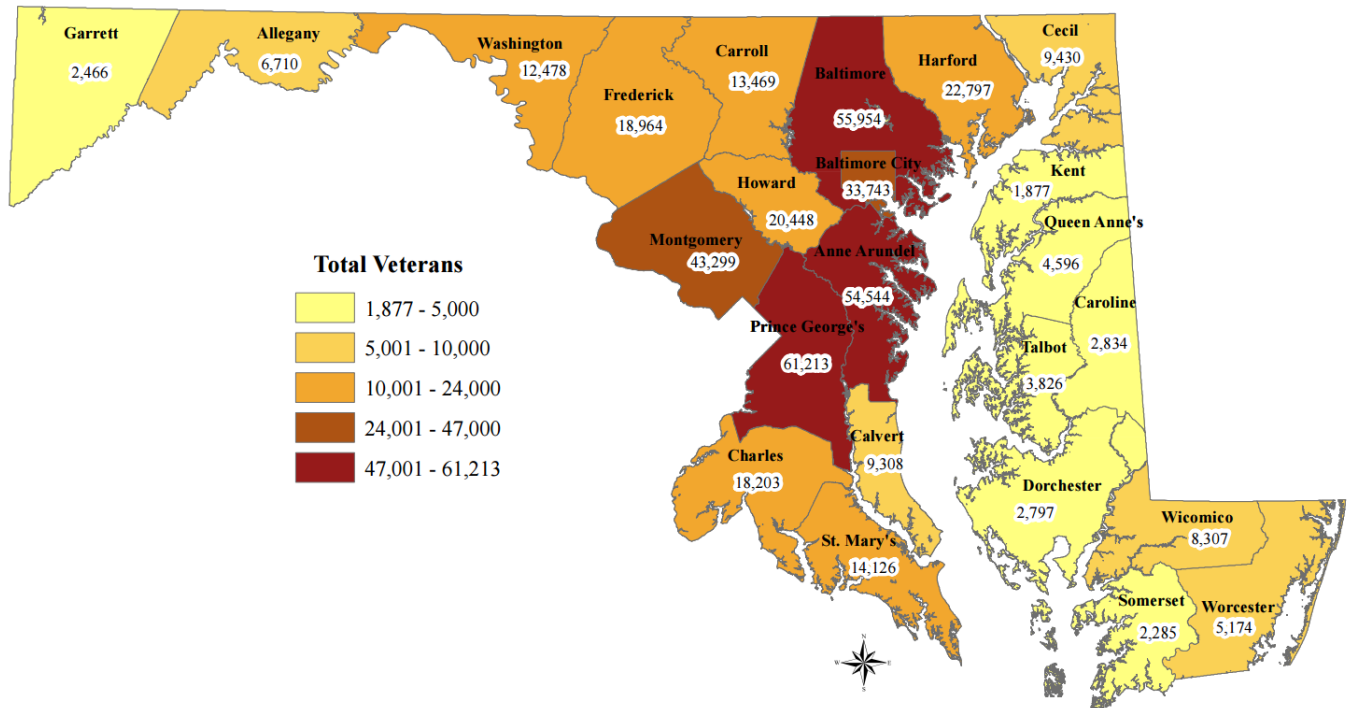
Small Business Effect: None. The bill does not require small businesses to offer additional discounts or preferences – only that they accept certain proof of an individual's veteran status if they do so.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no specific requirement that a business accept certain forms of identification as proof of an individual's veteran status. Chapters 50 and 51 of 2012 require the Motor Vehicle Administration to ensure that the driver's license or identification card of an applicant who presents specified documentation certifying the individual's status as a veteran include a notation that the applicant is a veteran.

Background: According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, approximately 429,000 veterans resided in Maryland in 2015. Consistent with overall population trends, the majority of veterans were located in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Prince George's, and Montgomery counties.

Exhibit 1
Estimated Number of Veterans in Maryland – 2015
Total: 428,861



Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs map prepared for the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs by the Maryland Department of Planning.

Business entities are generally required to pay an annual filing fee to the State Department of Assessments and Taxation for the privilege of maintaining the legal entity's existence in the State. The annual fee is generally \$300. Approximately 269,000 entities paid the filing fee in 2015.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), State Department of Assessments and Taxation, Maryland Department of Planning, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 2016
md/mcr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 14, 2016

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