

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT
FOR SENATE BILL 109

By Melvin F. Graves Before the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee, January 15, 2020

Good afternoon Senator Mazzone, Chairman Mazzone, Vice Chair Senator Rosapepe, and distinguished members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. I am Melvin F. Graves, representing The American Legion Department of Maryland and am here before you today to fully support Senate Bill 109.

You have our statement of support for this measure so in the interests of time I will refer to the highlights of our endorsement.

Homes owned by 100 percent disabled veterans and those of their surviving spouses are exempt from taxation from state, county or municipalities. Senate Bill 109 closes any loopholes which might or have been brought by a governmental entity. For those who have already been billed for such taxes, it creates a sensible reimbursement plan for a five-year period.

The American Legion fervently believes we must honor the services of those who have given greatly in the defense of our country and, as importantly, the law.

Senate Bill 109 strengthens existing statutes and allows our veterans who have given much in the defense of the nation and permits them to enjoy the greater benefits of financial security.

We wish to thank Senator Ellis for his compassion to our veteran community and, in closing, we ask you to render a favorable report to Senate Bill 109. Thank you.