



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

SUPPORT SENATE BILL 109

Senate Bill 109 – Disabled Active Duty Service Members, Disabled Veterans, and Surviving Spouses – Exemption From Property Tax and Other Charges and Refunds
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
January 15, 2020

The Maryland Military Coalition is a **nonprofit, all volunteer, Veterans advocacy group** representing the interests of Maryland Veterans, Service members, and their families. Our alliance consists of sixteen organizations, listed on the following page, with over 100,000 members, about one-fourth of Maryland's Veterans and their Families.

The Maryland Military Coalition **supports Senate Bill 109.**

As you know, the real property owned by disabled veterans, as their legal residence, is exempt from taxation, if they have a 100% service-connected disability. Additionally, real property owned by their surviving spouses and the surviving spouses of Service members who died in the line of duty is exempt from taxation.

This important legislation **expands the existing law** to ensure that the beneficiary's dwelling is **exempt from any governmental charges** directly related to the dwelling house, whether imposed by a state, county, municipal corporation, or any other taxing authority. Additionally, this law allows for an eligible recipient to apply for a refund of any such tax paid on the dwelling house during a defined, five-year period.

The Maryland Military Coalition believes we must honor the service and acknowledge the sacrifice of these **severely disabled Veterans**, as well as their **surviving spouses**, and also **Gold Star spouses**.

Senate Bill 109 increases the financial security of our most severely disabled Veterans and their survivors. It ensures home affordability, allowing them to remain in their homes in acknowledgement of their tremendous sacrifices on behalf of our Nation.

We respectfully request a favorable report for Senate Bill 109.

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact me at
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Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

James P. Monahan
Air Force Sergeants Association

Steve P. May
American Military Society

Lynn A. Nash
Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

Wilbert B. Forbes
Disabled American Veterans

Sheldon Goldberg
Distinguished Flying Cross Association

Pleasala J. Collins
Fleet Reserve Association

Evan A. Buttrick
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Steve L. Bloodgood
Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association

Harvey Kaplan
Military Officers Association of America

Charles Egbert
Military Order of the Purple Heart

Mervyn Rice
National Association for Black Veterans

Michael P. Hays
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Christian Andreasen
NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Catherine L. McGraw
Society of Military Widows

Arthur L. Cooper
The Retired Enlisted Association

Thomas C. Williams
Veterans of Foreign Wars