



## MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

### SENATE BILL 142 - SUPPORT

**Senate Bill 142 – Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund**  
**Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**  
**January 29, 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. We represent about one-fourth of Maryland’s Veterans, Service members, and their Families.

The Maryland Military Coalition **supports Senate Bill 142.**

As you know, this legislation renames the Recreational License Donation Fund to the “Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund.” It also allows the fund to provide grants to nonprofit organizations that provide recreational hunting or fishing opportunities to Gold Star families, disabled Veterans, disabled members of the armed forces of the United States, or permanently disabled persons who require the use of a wheelchair.

This recreational therapy program would greatly complement the amazing work of the La Plata, Maryland-based nonprofit Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing which is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs notes that recreational therapy program outcomes include improved physical health and capability to accomplish daily life activities, as well as improved mental health and relationships with others. These recreational therapy programs are positive factors in enhancing participants’ behavioral health and directly contribute to suicide prevention efforts.

The Maryland Military Coalition believes that our disabled Veterans, their families, and particularly our fallen Warriors’ surviving family members, are living testaments to the ideals of honor, service, and sacrifice.

Consequently, we must support measures that help our Veterans and their families live their lives with dignity and fulfillment in our great state. It is important to have programs and services that support their ability to lead productive independent lives.

**We respectfully request a favorable report for Senate Bill 142.**

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact me at  
BTSmith1184@outlook.com or by calling 703.623.3678

**Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition**

*James P. Monahan*

**Air Force Sergeants Association**

*Stacy 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**