

**HB 922 Income Tax – Subtraction Modification –Vietnam Veterans
Favorable
Ways and Means Committee
February 25, 2020**

Good Afternoon Chairwoman Kaiser and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee. My name is Tammy Bresnahan. I am the Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the State, with almost 900,000 members, including nearly 200,000 Veterans. On behalf of AARP Maryland, I am here today to **support HB 922 Income Tax – Subtraction Modification –Vietnam Veterans.**

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse.

HB 922 creates a subtraction modification against the State income tax equal to \$3,000 for an individual who is a Vietnam veteran of the U.S. Uniformed Services. The bill takes effect July 1, 2020, and applies to tax year 2020 and beyond.

AARP Maryland supports this initiative as it:

- Honors the Service of our Vietnam Veterans offering a state income tax subtraction;
- Acknowledges their sacrifice by noting that their retirement income represents a small return given that it is earned through the selfless investment of their dedicated service during the Vietnam conflict; and
- Makes Maryland a more attractive retirement option for those that have served.

AARP Maryland believes that supporting **House Bill 922** is a solid economic move for Marylanders who served in Vietnam. We believe that their decades of challenging service devoted to protecting our freedoms and ensuring our safety merit this income tax subtraction.

While we realize that our legislature hears many income tax subtraction-related proposals and must thoroughly consider the impact of their decisions, we believe it would be most unfortunate if those who have served so honorably on our behalf, would, in retirement, choose to live in a different state, due to a more favorable treatment on retirement benefits earned through their service.

AARP Maryland respectfully requests a favorable report for House Bill 922.

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Tammy Bresnahan, Associate State Director of Advocacy at tbresnahan@arp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.