



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

January 18, 2024

The Honorable Guy Gozzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Maryland Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report** – SB0006 – Property Tax – Credit for Dwelling House of Disabled Veterans – Alterations

Dear Chair Guzzone and distinguished members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC) and as its Legislative Director, I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB 0006 – Property Tax – Credit for Dwelling House of Disabled Veterans – Alteration**, sponsored by Senator Dawn Gile. The primary purpose of this bill would be to amend Article – Tax – Property, Section 9-265 of the Annotated Code of Maryland to include veterans who have a nonpermanent service-connected disability of 100% that resulted from blindness or any other disabling cause that was not caused or incurred by the misconduct of the veteran. The disabled veteran would be eligible for a 50% property tax credit in those Maryland jurisdictions where the above section of the code has been granted.

This bill will align the Annotated Code of Maryland with the Temporary Total Disability Ratings of the US Department of Veterans Affairs. As pointed out on the Benefits.com website, “Though many veterans ultimately recover over time, VA temporary total disability ratings allow them to compensate for the income they are unable to earn through a substantially gainful occupation. This disability compensation entails their being rated at 100 percent disabled, but only for a limited period of time.”¹ The adoption of this bill will create an added benefit for those veterans in this category. It will serve to mitigate financial pressure upon them regarding their mortgage payments, which include a property tax component.

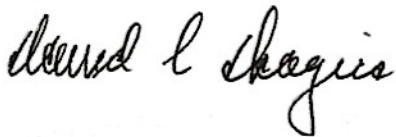
The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports** SB0006 and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Budget and Taxation Committee. This bill builds on the Moore Administration’s Year of the Military Families, providing another benefit that assists and helps the veterans and their families who have bravely served, fought, and sacrificed for our state and country.

¹ <https://benefits.com/veterans-disability/temporary-total-disability-ratings/>

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 21 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups, representing over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

We want to thank Senator Dawn Gile for sponsoring this legislation and her continued strong support of the veterans community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Dragics". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

David L. Dragics
COL USA (Ret)
Legislative Director

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

James P. Monahan
Air Force Sergeants Association

Stan P. May
American Military Society

Elwood R. Raphael Gray
American Minority Veterans Research Project

W. W. Allen
Association of the United States Navy

Lyman A. Gask
Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

Wilbur B. Fisher
Disabled American Veterans

Seldon H. Freedy
Distinguished Flying Cross Association

Phyllis J. Collins
Fleet Reserve Association

Seldon H. Freedy
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Steve L. Blocker
Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association

Emmett R. Robert
Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Robert J. Winton
Military Officers Association of America

Charles E. Spitzer
Military Order of the Purple Heart

E. J. ...
Montford Point Marines of America

M. L. Messer
National Association for Black Veterans

Michael P. Hays
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Christian Andreasen
NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

John S. ...
Reserve Organization of America

Catherine L. McEraw
Society of Military Widows

E. J. ...
National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Veterans Affairs Directorate, NARFE MD

M. Blackwell
Veterans of Foreign Wars