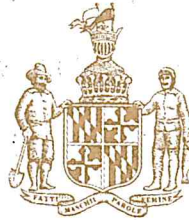


MICHAEL A. JACKSON
Legislative District 27
Calvert, Charles and
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Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Pensions

Public Safety, Transportation, and
Environment

District Office
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 707

***ARMED FORCES – SUPPORT OF MILITARY FAMILIES
AND ADDITION OF SPACE FORCE***

EDUCATION, ENERGY, & THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 707 is a very straightforward bill that makes a few simple requested changes relating to the assistance of military families. Primarily, the legislation adds the United States Space Force to State legislative references that include the other branches of service.

Additionally, the bill makes a corrective change to extend employment protections to Maryland residents serving in the National Guard of neighboring states who are called to duty by the Governor (of a neighboring state) for periods of less than 14 days. It alters the State provision of the Service Members Civil Relief Act to allow military spouses to terminate things like cable agreements or gym memberships on behalf of their spouse should they be deployed or transferred out of State. Then finally, with the requested amendment that I've submitted to the committee, the bill would allow our Governor to award certain posthumous commissions, appointments, and promotions in the Maryland Defense Force.

This is a simple, yet needed, bill that I strongly believe will provide a great benefit to our servicemembers and their families.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 707.



SB0707/373425/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

08 FEB 24
08:35:29

BY: Senator Jackson

(To be offered in the Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 707

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 9, after "Program;" insert "authorizing the Governor to award certain commissions, appointments, or promotions posthumously;".

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, in line 9, strike "Before" and substitute "EXCEPT FOR A COMMISSION, AN APPOINTMENT, OR A PROMOTION AWARDED UNDER SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION, BEFORE"; and after line 25, insert:

"(F) THE GOVERNOR MAY AWARD A COMMISSION, AN APPOINTMENT, OR A PROMOTION UNDER THIS SECTION POSTHUMOUSLY."