

Maryland Military Coalition SB0584 Written Testimo

Uploaded by: DAVID Dragics

Position: FAV



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 22, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller
Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for FAVORABLE Report – SB0584 – Motor Vehicles – Parking – Armed Forces Special Registration Plates

Dear Chair Smith and distinguished members of the Judicial Proceedings 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 ***SB0584 – Motor Vehicles – Parking – Armed Forces Special Registration Plates***, sponsored by Senator Bryan W. Simonaire. This legislation prohibits a county or municipal corporation of the State of Maryland from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, regulation, or policy that would require payment of a fee for parking a motor vehicle in a parking space with a parking meter if that vehicle has certain armed forces-related registration plates as defined in the bill.

The MMC endorses the proposal to provide this type of free parking to those honorably discharged veterans who have earned combat-related armed forces medals or individuals who are the recipient of the Department of Defense Gold Star for surviving spouses, parents, and next of kin of members of the armed forces who lost their lives in combat or are disabled veterans with special registration plates. It recognizes the fact that each has either honorably served our nation or, in the case of the Gold Star recipients, had a family member who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. It is the least we can do for all of them.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports** SB0584 and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Judicial Proceedings 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.

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.

Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report** – SB0584 – Motor Vehicles – Parking – Armed Forces
Special Registration Plates

We want to thank Senator Bryan Simonaire for sponsoring this legislation and his continued strong support of the veterans community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David L. Dragics".

David L. Dragics
COL USA (Ret)
Legislative Director

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

James P. Monahan
Air Force Sergeants Association

Step P. May
American Military Society

Elwood R. Raphael Gray
American Minority Veterans Research Project

W. G. G.
Association of the United States Navy

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

Wilbur B. Fisher
Disabled American Veterans

Seldon H. Freckling
Distinguished Flying Cross Association

Phyllis J. Collins
Fleet Reserve Association

Seldon H. Freckling
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. G. G.
Military Order of the Purple Heart

E. G.
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. J.
Reserve Organization of America

Catherine L. McStaw
Society of Military Widows

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

M. Blackwell
Veterans of Foreign Wars

SB 584 Letter of Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph Dolan

Position: FAV

22FEB2024

To: Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: SB 854 Supporters

Maryland Senators,

We the undersigned strongly support SB 584. We believe this his bill would have a meaningful financial benefit to combat-decorated veterans in Maryland. As veterans ourselves, many of whom are combat-decorated, we are in favor of this legislation which supports our military community. Please accept this letter of support to move SB 584 further in the legislative process.

Thank you very much.

- Maryland Veterans and Residents

Joseph Dolan	MD	AA
Nick Scerbo	MD	AA
Kien Do	MD	AA
Todd Woodward	MD	Howard
Seth Rampulla	MD	AA
Louis Carvalho	MD	Carroll
Chris Morin	MD	Montgomery
Al Girimonte	MD	Montgomery
Todd Lounsbury	MD	AA
Chris Banton	MD	AA
Kurt Johanson	MD	AA
Jon Leonardo	MD	AA
Andrew Mclean	MD	AA
Arthur Hodge	MD	AA
Pete Staveley	MD	Carroll
Chris Comeau	MD	Howard
Scott Smith	MD	AA
Adam Bosma	MD	AA

SB 584 Written Dolan.pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph Dolan

Position: FAV

22FEB2024

To: Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: LCDR Joseph Dolan, USN IRR
Subj: SB 584 Written Testimony

Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Joseph Dolan, and I am a resident of Anne Arundel County. I am writing to seek support for Senate Bill 584. I am in favor of this bill as it will have a positive and meaningful impact on military families. This law would change the laws for parking in Maryland for combat-decorated veterans. As a specific example, I'd like to reference the State of Texas. Current legislation in Texas allows veterans with specific military decorations to get specialty license plates which allow them to park in public for free anywhere in Texas. I have included that legislation in my other written submissions.

For example, Texas' legislation passed with much greater scope where waiving parking fees would apply across the state for all types of metered parking. While I support that type of legislation, I realize the Senator and the Department want to start with a smaller scope, provide benefits to combat military personnel and gather data on how many of us use this benefit before considering a greater scope. Other states have stood up and thanked their decorated veterans with parking legislation, and I think Maryland can and should too.

Clearly, Maryland is home to multiple bases and military stations such as Fort Meade, Andrews AFB, the U.S. Naval Academy, Pax River NAS, Aberdeen Proving Ground, etc. Service members and veterans who have served and continue to serve at these locations are important members of our economy and our community. Many of them have made significant sacrifices, and I think it would be right for Maryland to support them with this simple but important benefit.

I went to the U.S. Naval Academy and was on active duty for 10 years as a pilot and have been in the Navy Reserves for 7 more years. As a member of the Reserves, I work with the admissions department at the U.S. Naval Academy. For my full-time job, I am an airline pilot and work out of BWI. Like many of my co-workers, I flew combat missions in OIF and OEF during my tenure and I have been awarded an Air Medal for that service.

My plea is that when combat-decorated veterans were asked to accomplish a task, they didn't balk! I don't think Maryland should either.

The Maryland MVA already offers the ability to purchase plates with the relevant military awards and decorations but the tags are not associated with a corresponding benefit of free parking.

I have worked closely with Delegate Munoz's and Sen. Simonaire's offices to forward this initiative, and I thank them for their continued efforts.

Please see the submitted documents with the Transportation Code of Texas for comparison. Additionally, I have also included a letter of support from people that I know and/or work with who have also expressed support for this legislation.

In conclusion, I strongly support this legislation in order to thank and support Maryland's combat veterans. I appreciate your time and consideration and I look forward to moving forward with this issue.

Thank you very much,

Joseph K. Dolan
LCDR USN, IRR

TRANSPORTATION CODE Texas .pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph Dolan

Position: FAV

TRANSPORTATION CODE

TITLE 7. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

SUBTITLE H. PARKING, TOWING, AND STORAGE OF VEHICLES

CHAPTER 681. PRIVILEGED PARKING

Sec. 681.008. PARKING PRIVILEGES: CERTAIN VETERANS AND MILITARY AWARD RECIPIENTS. (a) A vehicle may be parked for an unlimited period in a parking space or area that is designated specifically for persons with physical disabilities if:

(1) the vehicle:

(A) displays special license plates issued under Section [504.202](#) (b-1); and

(B) is being operated by or for the transportation of the person to whom the plates were issued; or

(2) the vehicle displays license plates issued by another state of the United States that indicate on the face of the license plates that the owner or operator of the vehicle is a disabled veteran of the United States armed forces.

(a-1) A vehicle described by Subsection (a) may be parked for an unlimited period in a parking space or area that is designated specifically for persons with physical disabilities on the property of an institution of higher education, as defined by Section [61.003](#), Education Code, regardless of whether a permit is generally required for the use of the space or area. An institution of higher education may require a vehicle described by Subsection (a) to display a parking permit issued by the institution specifically for the purpose of implementing this subsection, but may not charge a fee for the permit. This subsection does not entitle a person to park a vehicle described by Subsection (a) in a parking space or area that has not been designated specifically for persons with physical disabilities on the property of the institution if the vehicle has not been

granted or assigned a parking permit required by the institution.

(a-2) Subsection (a-1) does not apply to a parking space or area located in:

(1) a controlled access parking facility if at least 50 percent of the number of parking spaces or areas designated specifically for persons with physical disabilities on the property of the institution of higher education are located outside a controlled access parking facility;

(2) an area temporarily designated for special event parking; or

(3) an area where parking is temporarily prohibited for health or safety concerns.

(b) A vehicle on which license plates described by Subsection (a) (2) or issued under Section [504.202](#), [504.308](#), [504.310](#), [504.315](#), [504.316](#), or [504.319](#) are displayed is exempt from the payment of a parking fee collected through a parking meter charged by a governmental authority other than a branch of the federal government, when being operated by or for the transportation of:

(1) the person who registered the vehicle under Section [504.202](#) (a), [504.308](#), [504.310](#), [504.315](#), [504.316](#), or [504.319](#);

(2) a person described in Section [504.202](#) (b) if the vehicle is registered under that subsection; or

(3) the owner or operator of a vehicle displaying license plates described by Subsection (a) (2).

(c) This section does not permit a vehicle to be parked at a time when or a place where parking is prohibited.

(d) A governmental unit may provide by ordinance or order that the exemption provided by Subsection (b) also applies to payment of a fee or penalty imposed by the governmental unit for parking in a parking garage or lot or in a space with a limitation on the length of time for parking.

SB 584 Senator Simonaire_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE
Legislative District 31
Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 320
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3658 · 301-858-3658
800-492-7122 Ext. 3658
Fax 410-841-3586 · 301-858-3586
Bryan.Simonaire@senate.state.md.us

The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 584

Chairman and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, I am here to introduce and voice my support for Senate Bill 584 – *Motor Vehicles - Parking - Armed Forces Special Registration Plates*.

Senate Bill 584 would prohibit a political subdivision from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, a regulation, or a policy that requires payment of a fee for parking a motor vehicle in a parking space served by a parking meter if the motor vehicle has an individually-earned, combat-related armed forces special registration plate or a U.S. Department of Defense Gold Star recipient special registration plate.

SB 584_233322 Completed Amendment.pdf

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV



SB0584/233322/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

19 FEB 24
17:49:57

BY: Senator Simonaire
(To be offered in the Judicial Proceedings Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 584
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 5, after the first “vehicle” insert “along a public roadway”; and in line 7, strike “by” and substitute “of”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 17, after “**VEHICLE**” insert “**ALONG A PUBLIC ROADWAY**”.

SB 584 - MDVA LOS.pdf

Uploaded by: Morgan Murphy

Position: FWA



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of the Secretary

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR

ANTHONY C. WOODS
SECRETARY

February 22, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 584 - Motor Vehicles - Parking - Armed Forces Special Registration Plates
Position: Favorable with Amendments

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (“MDVA”) supports Senate Bill 584 - Motor Vehicles - Parking - Armed Forces Special Registration Plates.

As amended, this bill would waive side street parking fees for recipients of combat-related medals and Gold Star and next of kin families who have these special designation license plates. When veterans and families display these plates, it improves understanding of their experience and serves as a reminder to the larger community of their sacrifice.

The MDVA believes it is important for the State to recognize and honor the bravery and sacrifice of these individuals who have given so much in service to our country. This bill represents a small but meaningful way that the State can show its appreciation.

I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable report with amendments on SB 584.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Woods". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Anthony C. Woods
Secretary