



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

Senate Bill 89

Department of the Environment – Notation of Veteran Status and Eligibility for Benefits

Position: Support
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Date: January 28, 2025
From: Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** SB 89.

Senate Bill 89 authorizes MDE's occupational boards to include a notation of veteran status on professional licenses or certificates issued by MDE, and assist in determining the eligibility of veterans for state and federal benefits. The bill allows applicants for professional licenses or certificates to present documentation of their veteran status and consent to having their status noted on their license or certificate. It also permits sharing relevant information with executive branch agencies to evaluate veterans' benefit eligibility.

The bill would apply to the following MDE boards: (1) Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators; (2) Board of Well Drillers; (3) Board of Marine Contractors; and (4) Board of On-Site Wastewater Professionals. The bill is authorizing only in recognition that there may be varying degrees of cost and implementation challenges depending on the specific board.

MDE supports efforts to acknowledge and assist our veterans. MDE also appreciates working with the bill sponsor to address potential costs and implementation concerns. Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 89.

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