



**Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families  
Office of the Secretary**

**WES MOORE  
GOVERNOR**

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LT. GOVERNOR**

**ANTHONY C. WOODS  
SECRETARY**

**Senate Bill 89 -Department of the Environment - Notation of Veteran Status and  
Eligibility for Benefits  
SUPPORT**

January 23, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) is committed to leading veterans and their families through life's transitions, making Maryland the best state for military-connected communities. DVMF fulfills its mission through five core programs: the Service and Benefits Program, which helps veterans access federal, state, and local earned benefits; Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, offering assisted living and skilled nursing care; the Cemetery and Memorial Program, providing dignified resting places and maintaining memorials honoring Maryland's veterans; the Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program, fostering connection and awareness; and the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund, offering financial assistance to veterans and their families in need. These programs reflect Maryland's commitment to honoring and empowering its military-connected community.

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families supports Senate Bill 89 - Department of the Environment - Notation of Veteran Status and Eligibility for Benefits.

DVMF believes Senate Bill 89 provides a pathway to enhance recognition of veteran status on professional licenses and certificates and facilitates access to state and federal veterans benefits. DVMF is committed to supporting Maryland's military-connected community and SB 89 directly aligns with our mission to ensure that Maryland veterans have the resources, opportunities, and support they need to thrive in civilian life.

By enabling veterans to have their status recognized on professional licenses or certificates, SB 89 serves several vital purposes:

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1. **Streamlined Access to Benefits:** Many veterans are unaware of the benefits and resources available to them. This bill establishes an efficient mechanism for connecting veterans with the agencies that administer these critical services.
2. **Employment Opportunities:** Highlighting veteran status on professional credentials not only acknowledges their service but also showcases the unique skills and experiences veterans bring to the workforce, encouraging employers to hire from this talented pool of individuals.
3. **Statewide Coordination:** This Bill reflects Maryland's commitment to creating a coordinated and comprehensive support network for veterans. Collaboration between the Department of the Environment, DVMF, and other executive agencies will ensure timely outreach and benefit determination, fostering a culture of care and responsiveness.

As a state that prides itself on honoring and empowering those who have served, Maryland has the opportunity to lead the nation in innovative practices that support the successful reintegration of veterans into civilian life. SB 89 is a critical step toward achieving that goal.

Thank you for your attention to this important proposal, and I ask the committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Woods". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "A".

Anthony C. Woods  
Secretary