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**SB491 General Provisions – Veterans’ Benefits – Honorable Discharge
FAVORABLE
House Health and Government Operations Committee
April 1, 2025**

Good afternoon, Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. My name is Jim Campbell, State President Emeritus of AARP Maryland, and a former member of the House of Delegates. On behalf of AARP Maryland and our 850,000 members across the state, I urge the Committee to support Senate Bill 491 General Provisions – Veterans’ Benefits – Honorable Discharge, as amended by Senator Gile and a bipartisan group of Senate co-sponsors. Thank you for your interest in this legislation.

The amended version of SB491 gives the Secretary of the Department of Veterans and Military Families the ability to determine a veteran’s eligibility for State benefits, rights, or privileges after being discharged. The veteran must submit documentation providing the basis for the discharge. This amended language ensures that Maryland Code is consistent with federal regulations. The bill helps veterans deserving of benefits receive them.

Maryland’s veterans and their families make tremendous sacrifices to serve the nation. SB491 provides the opportunity to honor them and assist in their recovery for injuries suffered while serving. For these reasons, AARP Maryland respectfully requests a favorable report for SB491.

If you have questions or for follow up, please contact Tammy Bresnahan, Senior Director of Advocacy at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.



