



## MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

March 21, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee  
240 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB0275 – Modernization of Military Laws Act

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and distinguished members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC), I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB0275 – Modernization of Military Laws Act**, sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire. This bill will update selective Articles of the Maryland Code through the adoption, integration, and proper use of definitions related to the uniformed services found in 10 U.S. Code § 101 and 37 U.S. Code § 101.

We strongly support this bill's modernization of the Maryland Code, making it consistent with the U.S. Code in using key terms related to the uniformed services and making the use of those terms consistent throughout the Maryland Code without changing any policy. This is critical as a lower percentage of our population serves or has served in the uniformed services. Eighty-eight percent of the current 185 members of the MGA have never served in uniform. That's even more reason to ensure that the usage of these terms in the Maryland code is clear and correct, leaving no opportunity for misinterpretation in future legislation and policymaking.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports SB0275** and asks for a **FAVORABLE report** from the Health and Government Operations Committee.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers and survivors. Visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank Senator Simonaire for sponsoring this legislation and supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

David L. Dragics  
COL (Ret), U.S. Army  
Legislative Director

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## **Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition**

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Platoon 22

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars