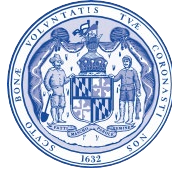


# **HB 232 Testimony C1 - National Guard STAR Program**

Uploaded by: Andrew Collins

Position: FAV



WES MOORE  
GOVERNOR  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

STATE OF MARYLAND  
MILITARY DEPARTMENT  
FIFTH REGIMENT ARMORY  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2288

JANEEN L. BIRCKHEAD  
MAJOR GENERAL  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

## **HB 232 - MMD – National Guard – Tuition Assistance**

Good afternoon, Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Keiser, and members of the House Appropriations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 232, MMD-National Guard- Tuition Assistance.

HB 232 aligns with the priorities of the Moore-Miller Administration, creating an Equitable, Robust, and Competitive Economy through providing access to vocational equipment that will have the following positive impacts:

- Reducing Maryland’s underemployment rate
- Improve labor force participation
- And Enhance financial readiness of soldiers, airmen and their families.

The statutory change would enable the Maryland Military Department (MMD) to support Servicemembers by reimbursing career-related overhead expenses. Specifically, reimbursing Servicemembers directly for approved costs incurred while enrolled in state-certified apprenticeship programs, including personal protective equipment (PPE), tools, certification or licensing fees, and trade-required equipment and materials.

HB 232 also allows for the use of existing State Tuition Assistance Reimbursement (STAR) education funding to directly support Maryland National Guard (MDNG) Servicemembers pursuing state-certified apprenticeship programs.

MMD recognizes that access to high-quality equipment, tools, and technology is essential to effective vocational training. This change to the Maryland STAR Education Program will help to:

- Provide equitable access to equipment and learning materials across all programs, ensuring that no one is disadvantaged due to lack of personal resources.

- Eliminate barriers that disproportionately impact historically marginalized communities, including financial, geographic, or physical obstacles.

- Invest in inclusive infrastructure.

- Foster a culture of respect, inclusion, and support.

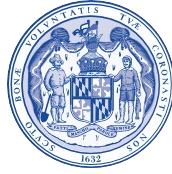
The bill is revenue neutral and does not have a fiscal impact.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to issue a favorable report for HB 232. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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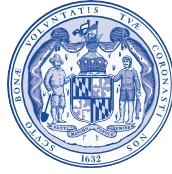
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For these reasons, I urge the committee to issue a favorable report for HB 232. Thank you for your time and consideration.

# **HB232\_VeteransCaucus\_Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Veterans Caucus Maryland

Position: FAV



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
VETERANS CAUCUS

February 03, 2026

Delegate Ben Barnes  
House Appropriations Committee  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB232: Maryland Military Department – National Guard – Tuition Assistance

Dear Chairman Barnes,

Please let this letter serve as notice of the support of the Maryland General Assembly Veterans Caucus for House Bill 232.

After review by our respective legislative committee, the Veterans Caucus believes that the above-mentioned legislation would provide a valuable benefit to the veterans of the State of Maryland and requests a favorable report.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin T. Brooks".

Senator Benjamin Brooks  
Senate Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Rogers".

Delegate Mike Rogers  
House Chair