

Maryland Military Coalition SB0215 EEE Committe Wr

Uploaded by: David Lutzow

Position: FAV



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 10, 2026

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

Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report** – SB0215 – Veterans and Uniformed Services –
Maryland Veterans Trust Fund and Application of Laws

Dear Chair Feldman and distinguished members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition¹ (MMC) I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB0215** – Veterans and Uniformed Services – Maryland Veterans Trust Fund and Application of Laws, sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire. This bill is a continuation of the centralization and modernization of Maryland's Code with respect to military terms, synchronizing it with the federal code.

The MMC supports this bill as it further clarifies the definitional meanings related to Veterans, and members of the Uniformed Services and National Guard under the following Maryland Articles:

- Courts and Judicial Proceedings
- Family Law
- Local Government
- Real Property
- State Government
- Transportation

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports SB0215** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee.

Subject: Request FAVORABLE Report – SB0215 – Veterans and Uniformed Services – Maryland
Veterans Trust Fund and Application of Laws

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups, representing over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

The MMC thanks Senator Simonaire for sponsoring this legislation and supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland. To learn more about our organization, please visit our [website](#).

Respectfully,

David Lutzow

David Lutzow
Senior Master Sergeant (Ret), U.S. Air Force
Director

1 Attachment – Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition



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

SB215_Favorable_Report_Cross.pdf

Uploaded by: Dr Cashenna A Cross

Position: FAV

FAVORABLE REPORT REQUEST – Senate Bill 215

I respectfully request a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 215, which advances statutory clarity, equity, and consistency across Maryland law by ensuring that references to military service are uniformly applied to all branches of the uniformed services.

As a retired veteran of the United States Air Force, I strongly support legislation that reflects precision in language, fairness in application, and fidelity to those who serve. Senate Bill 215 improves legal coherence, aligns state law with federal definitions, and ensures equitable treatment of service members across multiple articles of Maryland law.

For these reasons, I urge a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 215.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Cashenna A. Cross
City Councilwoman-at-Large, Glenarden
Municipal Advocate
571-719-8784

SB 215 Senator Simonaire_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

SB 215 – 2025 Military Revisions

I am Senator Bryan Simonaire presenting **SB 215**.

This is a cleanup bill from last year's Military Modernization bill that I worked with Departments and advocates with **no opposition**.

Last year we passed an 8-bill legislative package to modernize, standardize and centralize our Maryland military laws.

The package passed, but there were other bills that were also passed that did not have these revisions as they weren't law yet; therefore, this bill brings those other laws up to the standards adopted by the legislative package last year.

There were a couple other minor changes addressed in this bill that weren't updated in last year's package as well.

The bill does 3 main things:

1. It updates state govt article to reflect the changes in the Transportation Article last year related to the **non-combat medals** for license plates;
2. It centralizes the definition of "***Military Protective Order***" in the State Govt Article that are referenced in several Articles; and
3. There were other bills that **passed last year** without having the modernization updates, so this updates those sections to the new standards.

For all these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration.

DVMF SB215 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Morgan Murphy

Position: FAV



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

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR

ED ROTHSTEIN
ACTING SECRETARY

**Senate Bill 215 - Veterans and Uniformed Services - Maryland Veterans Trust Fund and
Application of Laws
SUPPORT**

February 12, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, 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. Our department supports Senate Bill 215 - Veterans and Uniformed Services - Maryland Veterans Trust Fund and Application of Laws

Senate Bill 215 continues the great work of legislators from last session by updating statutes to reflect federal definitions, and replacing "armed forces" with the more inclusive and "uniformed services," which includes all eight branches. The bill also adds fees from special registration plates for recipients of "non-combat-related" uniformed services medals to go to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund, which supports veterans and military families across the State. This bill has no negative fiscal impact on the Trust Fund.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward C. Rothstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed Rothstein
Acting Secretary

SB 215 Veterans and Uniformed Services - Maryland

Uploaded by: Sara Westrick

Position: FAV



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**SB 215 – Veterans and Uniformed Services –
Maryland Veterans Trust Fund and Application of Laws
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 12, 2026
FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 215. My name is Jim Campbell, president emeritus for AARP Maryland, chair of the AARP Maryland Veterans Committee, and a former state delegate.

AARP Maryland represents more than 850,000 members statewide and is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization advocating for Marylanders age 50 and over and their families. We thank Senator Simonaire for sponsoring this legislation.

AARP has four areas of focus in serving military families, including fighting fraud, helping with career and employment opportunities through the Military Service Job Center, caregiving, and access to benefits.

What does SB 215 do?

Senate Bill 215 modernizes and harmonizes Maryland law to ensure that all uniformed services members—not just traditional armed forces members—receive consistent protections, benefits, and recognition. The bill clarifies definitions and expands eligibility for contributions to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

SB 215 is a technical yet meaningful step toward equitable treatment of all who serve.

How will it help veterans?

SB 215 ensures equal treatment across all uniformed services. Service members today come from a broad range of federal and state uniformed services, including the U.S. Public Health Service and NOAA Corps. Many Maryland statutes refer only to “armed forces” or “military,” leaving out individuals who serve in equally demanding and essential roles.

SB 215 closes those gaps, ensuring that laws on housing, local government employment, natural resources, and judiciary processes apply consistently.

SB 215 also strengthens the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund by including fees from non-combat-related uniformed services medals of the highest levels. This broadens the

community eligible for specialty plates and increases voluntary contributions, thereby creating additional resources for veterans in need of assistance.

At its core, the bill recognizes that all service members deserve consistent protections and opportunities.

Conclusion

Senate Bill 215 strengthens Maryland's commitment to uniformed services members and veterans. By correcting outdated statutory language and creating uniform definitions, the bill improves fairness, clarity, and support across state law.

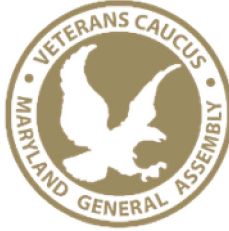
We urge a favorable report on SB 215.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick, AARP Maryland Advocacy Director, at swestrick@aarp.org or by calling 410-310-0374.

SB215_Veterans.pdf

Uploaded by: Veterans Caucus Maryland

Position: FAV



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VETERANS CAUCUS

February 12, 2026

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB215: Veterans and Uniformed Services – Maryland Veterans Trust Fund and
Application of Laws

Dear Chairman Feldman,

Please let this letter serve as notice of the support of the Maryland General Assembly Veterans
Caucus for Senate Bill 215.

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