

Maryland Military Coalition SB0013 Written Testimo

Uploaded by: DAVID Dragics

Position: FAV



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB0013 – Alcoholic Beverages – License Fee Refund Requirements – Alterations

Dear Chair Beidle and distinguished members of the Finance Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition¹ (MMC), I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB0013 – Alcoholic Beverages – License Fee Refund Requirements – Alterations**, sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire. This bill expands the refund requirements for certain alcoholic beverages license fees to members of the uniformed services, not just members of the armed forces.

SB0013 will make members of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and the Public Health Service, who are license holders under Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis, § 3-108 and § 4-113, eligible for a refund of fees upon the surrender of the license if they either volunteer for or have been called to active duty. This bill is in line with the modernization of military law in the Maryland Code initiated last Session.

The Maryland Military Coalition **supports SB0013** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Finance Committee.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 21 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. For further information, visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

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

Respectfully,

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

¹ See attached list of member organizations.



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

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars

SB 13-Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Giuseppe Mellinger

Position: FAV

SB 13

Alcoholic Beverages – License Fee Refund Requirements – Alterations

1. Opening Statement

Good afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee. My name is Giuseppe Mellinger, and I am here on behalf of Senator Simonaire as his intern to testify in support of SB 13.

2. Purpose of the Bill

Current law refunds the unearned portion of the alcoholic license fee when an individual volunteers for or has been called into the Armed Forces.

SB 13 expands the eligibility **to include all branches of the Uniformed Services, not just the Armed Forces**, for alcoholic beverage license fee refunds. **This** includes:

- NOAA officers
- USPHS officers

This aligns them with existing refund eligibility for military servicemembers.

3. Why This Matters

A. NOAA and USPHS are federal uniformed services

They **have** deployed **to war and no war zones including Afghanistan assisting with:**

- National emergencies
- Public health crises
- Environmental disasters
- Scientific and humanitarian missions

B. Current law excludes them

Maryland's refund structure recognizes military but does not yet include NOAA and USPHS, despite their similar service obligations. **This bill aligns with last year's *Modernization of Maryland Military Laws Act*.**

C. SB 13 simply corrects this inequity

The bill ensures:

- Fairness across all uniformed services

- Consistency with federal definitions

4. Impact on Maryland

- Supports small business owners who serve the nation
- Promotes fairness and uniformity
- Strengthens Maryland's reputation as a service-friendly state

5. Closing

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 13. Thank you for your consideration.

SB 13 Senator Simonaire_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE
Legislative District 31
Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB 13 – Statewide Alcohol Revisions

I am Senator Bryan Simonaire presenting SB 13.

In the *Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis* Article it refers to allowing alcohol license holders a refund to individuals who surrender their license when they volunteer or get called into the ‘*Armed Forces*’.

This bill simply revises the reference to ‘*Armed Forces*’ members to be the ‘*Uniformed Services*’ members.

It is honorable for men and women to join one of the branches of our Uniformed Services. And all branches protect us.

For example, every branch of the Uniformed Services participated in the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts.

This is a very simple bill following up on last year’s modernization of our Maryland military laws.

Last year we expanded most references of ‘*Armed Forces*’ to be ‘*Uniformed Services*’ so that we would include all branches in the Uniformed Services.

There were over 500 references updated last year, and a couple that didn’t get updated.

As we all know, license holders can join any branch of Uniformed Services and are not limited to just the Armed Forces.

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

COA SB 13 Support Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: Lynn Nash

Position: FAV



February 20, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
The Honorable Antonio Hayes
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB 13– Alcoholic Beverages – License Fee Refund Requirements -- Alterations

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and Distinguished Members of the Senate Finance Committee

On behalf of the Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service (COA), I write to request a **FAVORABLE Report** – SB 13– Alcoholic Beverages – License Fee Refund Requirements – Alterations, sponsored by Senator Simonaire. This bill is an administrative alteration of the Licqour License Fee refund, to modify the language from armed forces of the United States, to Uniformed Services. The term, uniformed services was harmonized throughout state code, with the passage of Senator Simonaire’s Modernization of Military Laws Act in 2025, which updated 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 38 U.S Code §101.

By amending the language, commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) are entitled to the same refund protections as members of the armed forces or state militia, should they volunteer or be called to active duty. Upon surrender of the license, the officer is entitled to a refund of the unearned portion of the license fee.

Commissioned officers of NOAA and Public Health have previously been denied benefits given to other service members because of the language written or more likely omitted in legislation. SB 13, corrects this oversight.

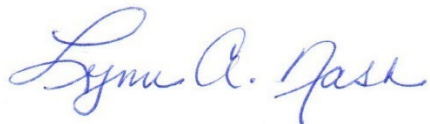
The Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Services requests a **FAVORABLE Report** on SB SB 13– Alcoholic Beverages – License Fee Refund Requirements – Alterations.

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report – SB 13– Alcoholic Beverages – License Fee Refund Requirements -- Alterations**

The mission of COA is to protect and enhance the public health and safety of the United States by supporting and advancing the interests of the Commissioned Corps and its officers. COA is the only organization working exclusively on behalf of the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

We thank Senator Simonaire for his continued support of the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
CAPTAIN (Retired), United States Public Health Service
Director, Representing the Commissioned Officers Association
Maryland Military Coalition
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