



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
Department of Maryland  
Legislative Commission

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**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 362**  
**MARYLLAND NATIONAL GUARD – TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – MODIFICATIONS**  
**HEARD BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**MARCH 3, 2020**

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The American Legion Department of Maryland vigorously supports House Bill 362 in the belief that (1) education is to development and growth of our citizenry and (2) this helps those who are continually on call for mobilization within our State natural disasters and civil unrest as well as abroad for conflicts and wars.

We also are pleased this bill supports those in higher education as well as Guardsmen and women—both officers and enlisted-- who wish to improve themselves through vocational and certification programs. This will be an immense aid for student-warriors who seek careers in trades or professions as Legal Aides but don't have the desire to attend a four-year college or university.

This bill also insures the state has a continuous reserve of National Guard members by requiring the prospective student to have a two-year obligation to his or her unit.

The American Legion serving over 48,000 active duty personnel, veterans who were part of all wars and conflict as well as their families respectfully request a favorable report on HB362.

Yours, respectfully

Melvin F. Graves  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
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