



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

SENATE BILL 203 - SUPPORT

Senate Bill 203 – Income Tax Checkoff – Maryland Veterans Trust Fund
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
January 22, 2020

The Maryland Military Coalition is a **nonprofit, all volunteer, Veterans advocacy group** representing the interests of Maryland Veterans, Service members, and their Families. Our alliance consists of sixteen organizations, listed on the following page, with over 100,000 members. We represent about one-fourth of Maryland's Veterans, Service members, and their Families.

The Maryland Military Coalition **supports Senate Bill 203.**

As you know, the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund, Maryland Cancer Fund, Developmental Disabilities Services and Support Fund, and Fair Campaign Financing Fund are the four current checkoffs on the personal income tax form. As recently as fiscal 2018, taxpayers donated nearly \$1.7 million via income tax checkoffs to these organizations.

This important legislation adds the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund as another option for taxpayer donations. The Maryland Veterans Trust Fund is a nonprofit organization created by Maryland law that provides non-emergency, temporary financial support for rent, mortgage, or utility payments.

The fund currently receives its resources from a portion of the proceeds of sales from instant ticket lottery machines operated by veterans service organizations. **The present level of funding is insufficient to meet the actual needs of our Veterans for assistance.**

Authorizing individual donations via an income tax form checkoff would provide a valuable, additional source of funding, allowing even more of our deserving Veterans to receive assistance.

We do not believe adding this new option will reduce funding to the current programs, rather it will afford a new giving opportunity to Marylanders with a propensity to support Veterans issues!

The Maryland Military Coalition believes that our Veterans and their families deserve not only recognition and acclaim for their service, but also our assistance in their times of great need.

Senate Bill 203 increases the financial security of our most needy Veterans and their families. It will also help in preventing Veteran homelessness by both keeping Veterans in their homes, and in keeping their homes habitable.

We respectfully request a favorable report for Senate Bill 203.

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact me at
BTSmith1184@outlook.com or by calling 703.623.3678

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

James P. Monahan
Air Force Sergeants Association

Stacy P. May
American Military Society

Lynn A. Nash
Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

Wilbert B. Forbes
Disabled American Veterans

Sheldon Goldberg
Distinguished Flying Cross Association

Pleasala J. Collins
Fleet Reserve Association

Evan A. Buttrick
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Steve L. Bloodgood
Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association

Harvey Kaplan
Military Officers Association of America

Charles Egbert
Military Order of the Purple Heart

Mervyn Rice
National Association for Black Veterans

Michael P. Hays
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Christian Andreasen
NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Catherine L. McGraw
Society of Military Widows

Arthur L. Cooper
The Retired Enlisted Association

Thomas C. Williams
Veterans of Foreign Wars