



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Maryland
Legislative Committee

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**ENDORSEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 203 INCOME TAX CHECKOFF –
MARYLAND VETERANS TRUST FUND**

Chair Guzzone, Vic Chair Rosapepe and distinguished members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

The American Legion Department of Maryland representing over 40,000 members in 136 Posts housed in the State's 23 Counties and Baltimore City strongly support Senate Bill 203, Income Tax Checkoff – Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

Since 2009 the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund managed by the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs has served veterans and their families in time of stressful economic crises. In 2018, this Fund expended over \$125,000 to assist persons in critical needs such as rent payments, home mortgages, medical expenditures and car payments. These one-time grants are not repayable.

One of the present methods for funding the Trust Fund is through donations at the State's casinos. This is problematic since most facilities do not place the donations box in a highly visible place for their customers nor do they provide adequate information to motivate a contributor to donate.

We believe the tax paying public will have greater motivation to contribute to this worthy cause. Knowledgeable veterans will encourage their families and tax preparers to participate in this opportunity.

With the foregoing in mind, The American Legion Department of Maryland prays the Budget and Taxation Committee will issue a favorable report of Senate Bill 203 and we comment Senator Elreth for her compassion in sponsoring this necessary legislation. Thank you, and

Respectfully, yours

Patrick Guibao

Patrick J. Guibao
Chair
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