

SB203_AmericanLegion_Support

Uploaded by: Guibao, Patrick

Position: FAV



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Maryland
Legislative Committee

1020 Wallace Road
Crownsville MD 21032-1318

443.949.6322
patguibao@icloud.com

**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
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Maryland
Legislative Commission

MDDepartmentVeteransAffairs_Support_SB203

Uploaded by: Owings, Secretary George

Position: FAV



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of the Secretary

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
LT. GOVERNOR

GEORGE W. OWINGS III
SECRETARY

January 21, 2020

The Honorably Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West. Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 203, Income Tax Checkoff – Maryland Veterans Trust Fund

Dear Chairman Guzzone,

Please be advised that the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs supports SB 203, Income Tax Checkoff – Maryland Veterans Trust Fund. This addition to the Trust Fund will further our ability to assist those veterans and their families who are suffering financially.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Owings III". The signature is written over a horizontal line and includes a long, sweeping flourish that extends to the right. Below the signature, the name "George W. Owings III" and the title "Secretary" are printed in a black, sans-serif font.

George W. Owings III
Secretary

GWO:kss

SB203_Elfreth

Uploaded by: Senator Elfreth, Senator Elfreth

Position: FAV

SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH
Legislative District 30
Anne Arundel County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

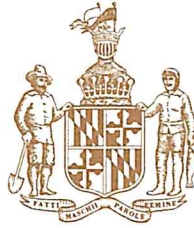
Education, Business and Administration

Chair, Pensions

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 103
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3578 · 301-858-3578
800-492-7122 Ext. 3578
Fax 410-841-3156 · 301-858-3156
Sarah.Elfreth@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 22, 2020

Testimony in Favor of SB203
Income Tax Checkoff - Maryland Veterans Trust Fund

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 203. This bill would require the Comptroller to place a checkbox on income tax returns for individuals to donate directly to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

The Maryland Veterans Trust Fund provides assistance to veterans and their families with rent, mortgage, and utility expenses. This fund has a proven history of success in aiding veterans as last year alone awarded over \$106,000 to dozens of veterans.

The Maryland Veterans Trust Fund's Report to the General Assembly highlights examples of how the Fund supports the heroes in our communities: \$3,560 to cover past due rent for a veteran in Prince George's County who had a recent medical emergency and was on leave without pay and \$3,511 to pay the past due electric bill for a veteran in Wicomico County who was in a car accident and out of work for a prolonged period.

You will find testimony from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Maryland Military Coalition, and The American Legion Maryland Department in support of this simple yet impactful legislation.

Including an income tax checkbox to ensure more funding for the Veterans Trust Fund will provide greater support for those who courageously served our nation. I ask for your support on Senate Bill 203.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sarah Elfret'.

Sarah Elfret

MMC_Support_SB203

Uploaded by: Smith, Brian

Position: FAV



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