THE AMERICAN LEGION Department of Maryland Legislative Commission

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STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SB 359 CORPORATIONS and ASSOCIATIONS – DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AND VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES – FILING FEE EXEMPTION AND STUDY

Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chairman Rosapepe and distinguished members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

The American Legion Department of Maryland strongly supports the principles of entrepreneurship in general and especially for those who have honorably served our nation in the armed forces.

While the amount of filing fees may be considered nominal, for those engaged in initiating a start-up business and are having difficulties in accruing investment capital, Senate Bill 359 will be a major dividend to their financial livelihood.

The American Legion believes SB 359 will contribute to the state's economy through business growth and development and contribute to the Maryland image as a "veteran friendly" community and respectfully request a favorable report by the Budget and Taxation Committee. Thank you, and

Yours, respectfully

Patrick Guibao

Patrick J. Guibao Chairman THE AMERICAN LEGION Department of Maryland Legislative Commission