



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Maryland
Legislative Commission

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**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 488
INCOME TAX – SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION – MILITARY AND
PUBLIC SAFETY INCOME**

Chairman Guzzone and distinguished members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

The American Legion is an ardent supporter for an equitable tax reduction for those who have served in uniform their nation as well as those who put their lives on the line daily for our communities and the State of Maryland.

We earnestly believe Senate Bill 488 is a reasonable and just measure to honor those who have served us honorably in their respective careers. This bill will allow them to live out the remainder of their lives in a more secure fashion and, hopefully, stem the exodus from our State to other states which have a more favorable tax legislation to honor their services.

While we recognize and honor our colleagues in law enforcement and fire safety our primary responsibility is to those who gave most of their life in the armed forces. The American Legion believes those who are about to conclude their military careers would probably prefer to continue to live their lives in Maryland and begin a second career.

This is especially true of those who hold high level security clearances and would be valuable assets to the burgeoning defense contract industry here which is on a growth parity to other such states as California and Texas. Presently, many of those already employed in this field are commuting from communities in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and West Virginia; states already having beneficial tax regulations favoring the military retiree.

In conclusion, The American Legion while respecting other legislative initiatives on this subject feels SB 488 is a realistic alternative particularly in a period when there are great needs confronting the Legislature in this session and respectfully request a favorable report on SB 488, Thank you, and

Respectfully, yours

Patrick Guibao

Patrick J. Guibao
Chairman
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