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## STATEMENT IN SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 487 MILITARY SERVICE CREDIT – ELIGIBILITY

Senator Guzzone and honored members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

Senate Bill 487 is a strong, vital measure designed to aid and assist state employees especially law enforcement and correctional officers by allowing credit to his or her past military service.

This bill would bring state employees not already enjoying this benefit to be in parity with Federal employees, many who reside in Maryland. These workers have two pension plans, the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) [5 U.S.C. §8334 (J)] for those joining the Government employment service on or after 1984 and the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) [U.S.C. §§ 8411 & 8422] for those whose employment began prior to 1984.

As these employees enter their retirement age SB 487 will be an immense benefit to these employees who will enjoy post careers in a more comfortable lifestyle.

The American Legion joins other veteran service organizations in encouraging a favorable report from the members of the Budget and Taxation Committee.

Yours, respectfully

Patrick Guibao

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