



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** Senate Bill 341 - Department of Veterans Affairs - Homes for Veterans - Veterans of Uniformed Service

**SPONSOR:** Senators Griffith et al.

**HEARING DATE:** February 5, 2020

**COMMITTEE:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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**POSITION:** SUPPORT

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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 341 - Department of Veterans Affairs - Homes for Veterans - Veterans of Uniformed Service**, which expands eligibility for veterans' homes supervised by the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to include veterans honorably discharged from active service with a uniformed service of the United States, rather than from the armed forces.

Under current state law, veterans' homes overseen by the MDVA are open to veterans who have been honorably discharged by the armed forces. This unfortunately overlooks veterans from the Public Health Services Commissioned Corps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps as both branches are part of the uniformed services but not the armed services. Expanding veterans homes to include all members of the uniformed services helps ensure that all those who have served this country will have access to the care and support they need.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 341** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.