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BILL NO.: **SB 341**

TITLE: Department of Veterans Affairs - Homes for Veterans -
Veterans of Uniformed Service

SPONSOR: Senator Griffith

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 5, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 341 – Department of Veterans Affairs - Homes for Veterans - Veterans of Uniformed Service. This bill expands eligibility to reside in a Veterans home supervised by the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to include the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps, so long as the veteran has an honorable discharge.

Baltimore County takes pride in its veteran residents, and supports legislation that provides benefits to all who have dedicated their lives to a uniformed service of the United States. Currently, veteran homes supervised by the MDVA may only accept veterans who have served in an armed force of the United States. These are not the only veterans who have selflessly dedicated their lives to serving their country, however, and expanding eligibility for MDVA-supervised Veterans homes will ensure that our efforts reach all veterans.

With minimal fiscal and operational burdens to the County and the State, this change to Maryland law could greatly improve the lives of dozens of veterans who need assistance.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 341. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.