



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Maryland
Legislative Commission

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**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 1007
TASK FORCE to STUDY the VETERAN-OWNED
SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM**

March 3, 2020

The American Legion representing over 48,000 active duty personnel, veterans who have served in wars and conflicts and their families—all Maryland residents—firmly believe the creation of a Task Force to analyze the Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise Program outlined in House Bill 1007 is a valuable measure aiding those who have a dream to become an independent, successful entrepreneur.

In our opinion the veteran is grossly overlooked by several facets of commerce especially financial resources to make the dream a reality. While it is recognized that it is the individual's responsibility to garner and network with lending sources, investors etc.

This can be assisted with governmental guidance. HB 1007 through a dedicated membership seeking a fair but meaningful outcome can achieve the needed steps to planning and resources of these necessary steps to individual achievement.

One goal The American Legion feels is essential is the inclusion of veterans in the Governor Small, Minority and Women Business Affairs. This integration will contribute vastly to the educational growth for a sole business owner.

Additionally, we would like to see the threshold for State mandated contracts be reviewed with the hope of increasing the present one percent to be on parity with the Federal Guidelines in this area and set at five percent (05%).

In closing we believe HB 1007 can be an important helping hand for present and future veteran entrepreneurs and an excellent asset to our State's diverse, robust economy and The

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American Legion respectfully requests a favorable report on this vital bill from the Appropriations Committee.

Yours, respectfully

Melvin F. Graves
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