

**Statement of Jayson L. Spiegel**  
**In Support of HB 0791**  
**Military Service Credit - Eligibility**  
**February 24, 2021**

My name is Jayson Spiegel. I am a Gaithersburg resident and retired after 28 years commissioned service in the Army and Army Reserve. I am a former Executive Director of the Reserve Officers Association of America and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. In addition, I am the Principal Advisor for Legislative Affairs, and Principal Advisor for Communications for the Maryland Democratic Party Veterans Council. I also chair the Legislative and Policy Committee of the Veterans Democratic Club of Charles County and Vicinity.

I am speaking in my personal capacity.

I urge the Committee to favorably report HR 0791, which authorizes certain members of the State Retirement and Pension System to receive credit for military service even if the member receives military service credit in another retirement system.

This provision recognizes the importance of military service and the leadership, training and skills veterans provide to Maryland State employment. In addition, the bill recognizes that individuals who serve in the military anywhere from several to 20 years may not work long enough for the State to maximize their pension benefits. By providing a credit, the bill calculates pensions for veterans where their state service would have been had they worked for the state rather than serving in the military.

In addition, the bill recognizes that state retirees may serve in the National Guard or Reserve on a part time basis. The formula in Section c 3 2 is a reasonable means of calculating the value of Reserve Component service for purposes of a pension credit.

I want to thank Delegate Young for your leadership on this important issue. I urge the Committee to favorably report HB 0791 and the House of Delegates to pass the bill.

Thank you.