

**MMC\_SB 24.21\_2021\_Sen. Peters.pdf**

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# MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT  
FOR SENATE BILL 241  
BEFORE THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

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Chair Guzzone, Vic Chair Rosapepe and distinguished members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

The Maryland Military Coalition serving 16 Veteran Service Organization who represent nearly 150,000 clients and members strongly support Senate Bill 241, Income Tax Checkoff – Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

Since 2009 the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund managed by the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs has served veterans and their families in time of stressful economic crises. In 2018, this Fund expended over \$125,000 to assist persons in critical needs such as rent payments, home mortgages, medical expenditures and car payments. These one-time grants are not repayable.

One of the prominent methods for funding the Trust Fund is through donations at the State's casinos. This is problematic since most facilities, while respecting the intent of the law governing casinos, do not place the donations box in a highly accessible or visible place for their customers nor do they provide adequate information to motivate a contributor to donate.

We believe the tax paying public will have greater motivation to contribute to this worthy cause. Knowledgeable veterans will encourage their families and tax preparers to participate in this opportunity.

With the foregoing in mind, The American Legion Department of Maryland prays the Budget and Taxation Committee will issue a favorable report of Senate Bill 241 and we commend Senator Peters for his continual compassion to the veteran community and for sponsoring this vital legislation. Thank you, and

Respectfully, yours

[Patrick Guibao](#)

Patrick J. Guibao

Vice President & Legislative Director

Maryland Military Coalition

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*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT  
FOR SENATE BILL 241  
BEFORE THE  
BUDGET & TAX COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 27, 2020

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The Maryland Military Coalition, a consortium of 16 active uniform service organizations who represent an estimated 150,000 members throughout our State strongly support Senate Bill 241 Income Tax Checkoff – Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (MVTFF).

This Fund administered by the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs aids our former active duty members during times of economic crises. It assists such necessities as a month's rent note or a missed car payment jeopardizing the veteran's ability to travel to work as well as other life essentials.

Assistance from the MVTFF once authorized goes directly to the party owed the payment, not the veteran. These payments are on a one time basis and there is no requirement on the veteran's part for repayment.

The primary means of providing revenue is from donations at the Maryland casinos which are legally required to provide a means for such contributions usually in the form tickets not cashed in at the respective payout windows. The unfortunate element of this procedure is the lack of a uniform location for the contribution boxes a non-requirement for gaming venues. Thus many in the gambling public are unaware of this opportunity.

By allowing this the Trust Fund to join other causes or organizations this would enable tax payers to contribute a small portion of their tax reimbursement to the valuable fund and serve as an educational vehicle on the Department's service to the veteran community.

The Maryland Military Coalition and its members programs dutifully ask for a favorable report by the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee on the essential Senate Bill 241.

Yours, respectfully

*Patrick J. Guibao*

Patrick J. Guibao  
Vice President and  
Legislative Director  
Maryland Military Coalition

copies to: Senator Peters  
Secretary George W. Owings III, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs  
MMC Leadership

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