



# MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*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*

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Vice President and  
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