



# 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