Larry Hogan Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D. Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D. Secretary

Bill Number: House Bill 9Position: SupportTitle: Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship - Eligibility for<br/>StepchildrenEligibility for<br/>StepchildrenCommittee: House Appropriations Committee<br/>Hearing Date: January 25, 2022Eligibility for<br/>Stepchildren

## **Bill Summary:**

House Bill 9 alters the eligibility requirements for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship to include stepchildren of veterans, active duty and reserve members of the United States armed forces, and members of the Maryland National Guard who served in, or were activated as a result of, the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict.

## Information:

The Maryland Higher Education Commission supports the proposed legislative changes to the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflict Scholarship (VAIC). The proposed change not only creates greater access to students but aligns with the other state scholarship program for veterans (Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program) to include stepchildren as an eligible recipient for the award. This change allows a deserving population of students to receive financial assistance to attend a post-secondary institution in the state.

For further information, contact Donna Thomas at DonnaE.Thomas@Maryland.Gov.

