

Military Installations - Expansion and Development

Uploaded by: Brian Crosby

Position: FAV

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Vice Chair
Economic Matters Committee



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Good afternoon Madam Chairwoman, Vice Chair, and distinguished members of the committee. I am Vice Chair Crosby and it's an honor to present HB98 entitled **Military Installations - Expansion and Development.**

This bill would expand funding opportunities for Maryland's 11 military installations and their surrounding communities by allowing them to access \$177 million in general bond obligations for mission improvements such as construction, renovation, and transportation improvements on the installations; and economic development, workforce development, and housing improvements surrounding the installations. The Maryland Military Installation Council would work in conjunction with base leaders and other community stakeholders to make recommendations to the Governor for the issuance of bonds, by the Treasurer, for the purposes I previously listed. Massachusetts passed a similar bill in 2014 to support their 6 military installations, and with this bill, we will make the same commitment to our 15 military installations and the 410,219 people who are employed by those installations. The economic impact of Maryland's military installations can not be understated. It was estimated in 2016 that they generated \$57.4 billion dollars in total economic output.

I am sure that you all are familiar with Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). BRAC assesses the necessity and strategic advantage of the hundreds of military bases in the U.S. and abroad. The process is, frankly, ongoing and with the scale down of operations in Afghanistan, the military is pivoting to a focus more on west coast bases for strategic reasons. BRAC essentially has a checklist for bases that determine whether they stay open, are combined with other bases, or shut down entirely. The closure of even one base in Maryland would have a devastating ripple effect on the economy. This bill would declare Maryland's intent to support the military's mission and keep jobs in Maryland. Growing the bases would increase the economic output by bringing in more property taxes from homeowners employed on the bases, bringing more military and civilian workers to the state, and more military contractors will set up shop surrounding these bases. Our installations must remain competitive, and this bill puts Maryland on better footing for our federal legislators as they lobby in Washington.

I ask for a favorable report on HB98.

SMNA-Bond-Bill-Testimony-25Jan2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Gary Kessler

Position: FAV

Testimony Submitted by: Gary Kessler
President – Southern Maryland Navy Alliance
Testimony on House Bill 98 before the Maryland General Assembly
25 January 2022

The Southern Maryland Navy Alliance (SMNA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 98. SMNA is a committed group of volunteers working to protect the current and future economy of Southern Maryland. In particular, we are dedicated to protecting the missions, identifying opportunities, and mitigating threats posed to Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River. Our organization is comprised of retired or former senior Navy Leadership, business owners, contractors, community leaders and officials from St. Mary's County. Our organization has strong relationships with base leadership and foster close community relations with local government and its key departments, maintaining vital partnerships with state-level government on issues impacting the community and NAS Patuxent River.

SMNA is constantly working to help enhance the base's capabilities in achieving its vital national security mission to make our Navy and our Country stronger and safer. SMNA has worked with the community and the base leader to address a range of infrastructure challenges. These infrastructure needs were both inside the base as well as outside the gate. Case in point, last year SMNA helped provide assistance to St. Mary's County as they applied for a Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) grant from the Office of Local Defense and Community Cooperation (OLDCC) within the Department of Defense. This program provides communities with federal dollars to address infrastructure needs outside the gate but are projects that will enhance the military value of the installation. St. Mary's County was awarded \$395,118 to improve pedestrian access across Route 235 to installation gates, supporting Naval Air Station Patuxent River. To date, St. Mary's County is the only entity in Maryland to have been awarded a DCIP grant. However, the program requires a local match. Passage of the military bond bill legislation would provide the State and Local communities with a very tangible tool to go after additional DCIP grants to address infrastructure outside the gate. While St. Mary's County was able to support this project local communities, especially rural one's have limits to matching federal grants so a state wide tool would be useful.

SMNA has also been very active in advocating for efforts to protect against encroachment around NAS Patuxent River as well as around the Atlantic Test Range which is critical for Naval Aviation. The Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) has been successfully employed by the Department of

Defense to protect encroach at NAS Patuxent River and around the regional ranges. In fact, Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks toured these areas last spring heralding them as a successful partnership that encouraged conservation while protecting bases missions. Enactment of a military bond bill in Maryland could be a tool that helps to encourage further partnerships like we have in southern Maryland. Again, REPI as well as a host of other innovative authorities in the DoD require some type of match and some communities just do not have the resources to make an attempt.

While we have been successful in a number of efforts without a military bond bill, there are plenty of additional needs that our community, and many other communities across this state, has that could be executed if a military bond bill were to exist. One challenge that we constantly face at NAS Patuxent River is traffic challenges around the installation. NAS Patuxent River has identified, for years, the need to upgrade several of the gates to enter the installation. However, getting those projects funded does not prioritize well within the DoD system of prioritizing military construction projects. As a result our traffic issues continue to build with no clear solution in sight. Other states like Massachusetts and Alabama have used state money, in the case of Massachusetts their bond bill, to fund gate improvements. It may seem counter intuitive but in the competitive world of maintaining and gaining new missions these bold actions from states are looked favorably by DoD and help local communities address traffic congestion issues. Here again, a military bond bill would be a great tool to make investments in our local communities and help solidify the military mission.

Like many other locations across the state and country, southern Maryland has its challenges in recruiting and retaining the talent needed for missions on military installations. We also face challenges in addressing workforce development needs for companies that do work on the base as well as for the government workforce. House bill 98 could also be a tool that is used to address those types of challenges in our local communities.

House Bill 98 is modeled off similar legislation in Massachusetts and would be an extremely helpful tool to ensuring that Maryland remains competitive to protect our current missions and look to grow in the future. We cannot be complacent because of our proximity to the nation's capital. Other states and local communities across this country are aggressive in fighting for new missions and protecting the one's they currently have. We need tools, like the one proposed in House bill 98, to stay aggressive and protect these assets for the state. As our adversaries continue to improve, the United States must prioritize innovation and investment in our military installations. Innovation, initiative, and

development are essential aspects of what needs to be done toward investment in Maryland's military installations.

Once again, thank you for the chance to testify for House Bill 98, and SMNA looks forward to future cooperation in supporting Maryland's military installations.

John-Beatty-Massachusetts-MD-Bond-Bill-Testimony-2

Uploaded by: John Beatty

Position: FAV

Mr. John Beatty Testimony
Executive Director – Massachusetts Military Asset and Security Strategy Task Force
On House Bill 98 before the Maryland House of Delegates
Appropriations Committee
25 January 2022

I submit this testimony in support of House bill 98. The legislation pending before this Committee is similar to legislation that was passed in Massachusetts in 2014. The intent of the legislation was to give the Commonwealth of Massachusetts tools to address the needs of its various military installations whether it was workforce development to actual infrastructure improvements. Under what is known as the “Massachusetts Military Bond bill”, I have the honor of serving as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Military Asset and Security Strategy Task Force (MASS-TF). The MASS-TF allows for various partnerships, mission enhancement, and cost reduction opportunities. I act as a liaison between the Commonwealth and community leaders to keep them aligned in highlighting installation activities in both Massachusetts and Washington.

The Massachusetts military bond bill provided the Commonwealth with an important tool to support our various military installations. Then Governor Deval Patrick understood that the Commonwealth needed to be a proactive partner to address a range of issues. The Commonwealth was being proactive to ensure that if there were any future base realignment and closure rounds (BRAC) that they were not in a bad position like previous rounds but addressing the myriad infrastructure and workforce challenges.

The creation of the MASS TF and utilization of the bond bill has helped the Commonwealth to protect current missions and be aggressive in going after new missions at the various installations across the state. For example, through the Massachusetts bond bill, we successfully made runway improvements through a \$9 million bond. We utilized bond bill funds to create the HEROES Program at UML to promote the U.S. Warfighter’s innovation and effectiveness through a \$125,000 bond. Bond bill funds were also used to support workforce training efforts at UMass-Lowell specifically to address critical needs for the acquisition workforce at Hanscom Air Force Base. Funds were also used to address renewable and resilient energy projects at communities with military installations.

The flexibility of the bond bill funding affords the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with an important tool to support local communities, partners and innovators to increase the strategic value of the military bases. The funds have been used to improve the quality of life for personnel and address infrastructure challenges that help the Commonwealth go after new missions. The Department of Defense has made clear to communities across the country that having military installation is not a right or guarantee and that they need states and local communities to step up and help them address myriad issues facing our military personnel. A military bond bill legislation is a very useful tool to be proactive in addressing these challenges.

I applaud Delegate Crosby for introducing this legislation and modeling it off the military bond bill in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. House bill 98 will give the State of Maryland an important tool to partner with and address issues raised by the Department of Defense. The military installations in Maryland will benefit from this legislation and it will help the leadership of the State address any issues should there be a future BRAC round. If this bill is passed in the Maryland legislature, it will be the second of its kind in the United States.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Herrmann-Matthew-MDMilBondBill-HB98-Testimony-25-J

Uploaded by: Matthew Herrmann

Position: FAV

Testimony Submitted by: Matthew Herrmann
Montgomery County Resident
On House Bill 98 Before the Maryland House of Delegates
Appropriations Committee
25 January 2022

Chairwoman MacIntosh and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 98 introduced by Delegate Brian Crosby. I am testifying today as a resident of Montgomery County Maryland but my employer does represent the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance (SMNA) on federal advocacy matters.

In short, the bill offered by Delegate Crosby would provide the State of Maryland with a powerful tool to support both the communities that surround our distinguished military installations and various military components throughout the state. His bill is modeled off similar legislation passed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 2014. Then Governor Deval Patrick supported passage of a \$177 million military bond bill to support the 6 military installations in the Commonwealth and their surrounding communities. The impetus for his legislation in Massachusetts was a result of repeated loss of military missions and bases during previous base realignment and closure (BRAC) rounds coupled with dissatisfaction by the U.S. Air Force over state support for missions at Hanscom Air Force Base. Simply put, the Governor wanted a dedicated tool to address a range of issues needed to better support military installations across the Commonwealth. House Bill 98 seeks to establish a similar and important mechanism for the State of Maryland.

Maryland is home to many strategically important military installations and components of the Department of Defense (DoD). Our state benefited greatly from the last BRAC round in 2005 but, in the years since, Congress has resisted additional BRAC rounds. As result, DoD has adopted the use of what are referred to “stealth BRAC actions”. That phrase refers to efforts by the Department, as well as local communities, to attract new missions to military installations in their respective areas. Instead of one large and public process, there have been smaller efforts to realign missions across the country. This has created a sometimes fierce competition amongst communities country-wide to support their military installations and fortify, or grow, their missions because those missions promise jobs and economic development. I fear that we sometimes are complacent in Maryland due, in part, to our proximity to the National Capital Region as well as from our successes in 2005. However, we need to remain vigilant and we must remain aggressive in sustaining our current presence and look for targeted opportunities to grow missions where it makes sense. State leadership needs the tools to remain competitive and leverage opportunities for partnership.

The military bond bill legislation in Massachusetts offers insights into the potential benefits of House Bill 98 to Maryland. Massachusetts has leveraged its bond bill to fund efforts that range from energy audits to supporting renewable energy projects to addressing workforce development needs to constructing a new gate at Barnes Air National Guard Base as well as expansion of the APRON to support future fighter aircraft missions. The Massachusetts military bond bill has been successful in addressing a number of issues and given the Commonwealth an edge in attracting new missions. This point is never more evident than in the growth of Program Executive Office (PEOs) and missions at Hanscom AFB. Massachusetts’ Hanscom AFB went from being viewed as a liability to an installation valued by the U.S. Air Force due to its recognized potential to grow and support the new strategic needs. That turnaround

is due in large part to the use of the bond bill to address workforce development issues but also the proactive nature of the response from Massachusetts.

Over the past several years there has been a growing recognition that military installations do not just operate on their own but are part of the broader community surrounding them. Congress has continued to give authorities to DoD, as well as local communities, that encourage greater partnerships in number of ways. Specifically, Congress has authorized and funded two innovative programs that directly benefit local communities – the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) and the Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program (DMCSP). In the case of DCIP, it's a program that can help local communities address infrastructure outside the gate but helps to support military mission and base value. But DCIP requires a local match. The bond bill could be a tool that helps local communities provide that match to the program and potentially even seek out regional infrastructure solutions. The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI) is another tool that DoD uses to protect against encroachment at military installations and DoD training ranges all the while encourage environmental conservation. The Sentinel Landscape Program has a similar purpose but has recently been broadened to address climate resilience concerns. In order to be successful, these programs require partners that are willing to invest in specific actions. The military bond bill will give the state and local communities across Maryland an innovative tool to leverage these new helpful authorities.

Maryland is well positioned to avail itself of benefiting from the military presence. According to a 2016 report by the Maryland Department of Commerce and Towson University, the military has a total impact of over \$55 billion in economic activity in the State of Maryland and supports a total of nearly 400,000 jobs statewide. The Office of Local Defense and Community Cooperation in their 2020 Defense spending by state report - which takes into account additional factors - showcased Maryland as the number 4 state, nationwide, that benefits from defense spending. It also showcased that defense spending in the state accounts for 7% of the state's GDP. Overall, Maryland directly benefits from nearly 5.1% of all US defense spending in 2020. Those figures are powerful in highlighting the economic importance of the military presence in Maryland. Our military installations support a very important part of our state's economy and we must take all necessary steps to protect those assets.

Beyond protecting what we have now, we should also view this legislation as a tool to grow new missions that complement our state's broader economic development goals and initiatives. Maryland is widely recognized as a leader in research, development, test and evaluation. We have many DoD labs and many private sector companies that support cutting edge innovation that benefits our national security, and in many cases has dual use capabilities. The bond bill could be a tool for Maryland to harness its leadership in quantum and ensure we are the place DoD looks to for how quantum can be used responsibly in our national defense. It can be a tool that helps us to attract the intellectual talent and capital needed to support the new strategic guidance from DoD. House Bill 98 allows us to go on the offense instead of hoping and praying that we will attract these new missions.

Finally, House bill 98 would establish a clear process for determining priorities for utilizing the bond bill, which is different from many states' hodgepodge approach to addressing DoD needs. The bill would also solidify the importance and grow the role of the Maryland Military Installation Council (MMIC). We cannot lose focus that there may be a future BRAC round and Maryland should harness a range of tools to protect its military equities while positioning itself to hopefully grow its missions, solidifying economic opportunity across the state. I applaud Delegate Crosby for taking a best practice in Massachusetts and

adopting it for Maryland. We must keep pace and we must remain aggressive in protecting and looking to grow military missions in the state. The economic impact is significant and cannot be ignored.

I appreciate your consideration of my testimony and urge swift passage of House bill 98.

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Uploaded by: Nichole Scott

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY FOR MARYLAND BILL HB 0098F - Military Installations – Expansion and Development

TWO MINUTES ALLOWED FOR TESTIMONY

Good Afternoon Madam Chair, Mister Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee.

I am Colonel Nichole Scott, commander of the 316th Mission Support Group, representing the Joint Base Andrews Installation commander, Col Tyler Schaff.

Joint Base Andrews and the United States Air Force welcome the opportunity to work more closely with the state of Maryland and the Maryland Military Installation Council to support the need to enhance resilience in the vicinity of our installation. Mission sustainment for JBA requires continuous focus on mission risk hazards identified both on and off base. These include traffic issues on state and local roads, tree obstructions in the Suitland Parkway that create a flight safety risk, and the existence of 10-year flood storm drainage around the base that leads to excessive flooding within the local community.

With almost one billion dollars of construction underway on base, transportation improvements could improve traffic flow and safety given the large volume of construction traffic entering our eastern gate that creates a constant backlog of vehicles along the narrow two-lane public road. Widening the road could add more space for construction traffic to pull off to the side while awaiting access approval.

Since the forest in the Suitland Parkway was decimated in the late 1930s to make way for the road and construction of the base, JBA has identified more than 3,500 trees that have grown steadily to heights extending up to 40 feet above the flight safety buffer under the imaginary surfaces of the approach and

departure airspace. Due to the historic nature of the Parkway, only 100 trees per year may be removed requiring a 35-year project to mitigate the flight safety risk.

JBA is located on a plateau and is the headland for five water bodies. The requirement for large, flat, impervious surfaces necessary for aviation missions leads to large water runoff during extreme rain and snow events that appear to overwhelm the 10-year flood storm water drains within the local community. Improvements to the storm water systems around the base could help reduce the impacts of flooding on JBA's neighbors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill and in conjunction with the DoD's competitive Defense Community Infrastructure Program matching funds, JBA welcomes the opportunity to work more closely with the state and local governments to improve installation resilience in multiple areas.