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SB 85 Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans - Established
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
SUPPORT
February 9, 2022

Good Afternoon Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee. I am Larry Walton, Veteran, Member of AARP, and resident of Ocean Pines, Maryland. AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the state, encompassing over 850,000 members. **AARP MD overwhelmingly supports SB 85 Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans – Established.** We thank Senator Jackson for sponsoring this bill.

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities, and protection from financial abuse.

Senate Bill 85 would establish a property tax credit at the county, municipal, and state levels for disabled veterans who have been honorably discharged from active military, navy, or air service. The percentage of property tax credit would be equal to the percentage of the disabled veteran's service-connected disability rating.

As you may know this bill expands eligibility for a property tax exemption for the dwelling house of a disabled veteran to include veterans with at least a certain percentage of service connected disability; provides for the application of this Act; and generally relates to a property tax exemption for the dwelling house of a disabled veteran.

For example, an 80% permanent disability rating reflects a severe disability, where the life and livelihood of the Veteran will be significantly impacted. Such a Veteran is far less likely to be able to gain and maintain employment and is far more likely to require the assistance of a caregiver. Since the caregiver is often the Veteran's spouse, the spouse is also disadvantaged in maintaining meaningful employment. The cumulative effect exacerbates the challenge of owning and remaining in a home.

AARP believes we must honor the service and acknowledge the sacrifice of our disabled Veterans. Senate Bill 85 does so, by providing greater economic viability for a

Real Possibilities

disabled Veteran and the Veterans caregiver by ensuring their ability to afford and remain in their home.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report for Senate Bill 85. For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Tammy Bresnahan, Associate State Director of Advocacy at tbresnahan@arp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.