

SB 85 support letter.pdf

Uploaded by: George Owings

Position: FAV



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of the Secretary

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
LT. GOVERNOR

GEORGE W. OWINGS III
SECRETARY

7 February 2022

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Members of the Committee
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee,

Please be advised that the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs supports SB 85, Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans – Established.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GWO". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the left.

George W. Owings III
Secretary

GWO:kss

SB85_fav_AARP.pdf

Uploaded by: Karen Kalla

Position: FAV



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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@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.

MD Catholic Conference_FAV_SB0085.pdf

Uploaded by: MJ Kraska

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

February 09, 2022

SB 85

Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans – Established

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference (“Conference”) represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch) dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

Senate Bill 85 establishes a property tax credit system that allows disabled veterans to receive property tax credits on their home to match their level of disability. Currently, under state law we are operating on an absolute basis, under which a disabled veteran in Maryland may receive a full property tax exemption on their primary residence if the veteran is 100% disabled as a result of service. However, if they are presumed less than 100% disabled, they are receiving no tax credit. Senate Bill 85 allows for a veteran to secure a tax credit that is in direct correlation with the percentage of their disability.

In a Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities it is stated *“Defense of the right to life, then, implies the defense of other rights that enable the disabled individual to achieve the fullest measure of personal development of which he or she is capable. These include the right to equal opportunity in education, in employment, in housing, as well as the right to free access to public accommodations, facilities, and services.”*

Senate Bill 85 seeks to address the respect for the dignity and physical integrity of the human person; working to protect and help the veterans and their families who have bravely fought and served our state and country. Veterans experiencing a mental or physical disability are among the most marginalized and underserved in our society. The Catholic Church through its parishes, charities, and other ministries reaches out pastorally to those struggling with physical or mental disabilities.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 85.

SB 85_FWA_MML.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Fiore

Position: FWA



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 9, 2022

Committee: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Bill: SB 85 Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans - Established

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League appreciates the intent behind Senate Bill 85, which seeks to expand property tax credits to disabled veterans in relation to their service-connected disability. Currently, only veterans with a 100% service-connected disability are exempt from state and local property tax. The League is asking for an amendment that changes the property tax credit in this legislation from mandatory to authorizing.

Municipalities in Maryland are significantly limited in the ways in which they can generate revenue, with property tax accounting for nearly 55% of general fund revenues on average. The League would much prefer an approach that grants local governments the flexibility help their resident veterans while balancing the budget.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 85 with an amendment to make the tax credit authorizing and respectfully requests a favorable vote.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott A. Hancock	Executive Director
Angelica Bailey	Director, Government Relations
Bill Jorch	Director, Research and Policy Analysis
Justin Fiore	Manager, Government Relations

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SB0085-BT_MACo_SWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Kevin Kinnally

Position: FWA



Senate Bill 85

Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans - Established

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: February 9, 2022

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 85 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill would require local governments to grant, by law, a prescriptive property tax credit for specified disabled veterans and surviving spouses.

SB 85 is a significant unfunded mandate on county governments. A “local option amendment” would relieve that mandate and allow each jurisdiction to weigh these costs appropriately.

MACo generally supports legislation that provides local autonomy to determine the best way to provide tax incentives, rather than those that mandate reductions in local revenue sources. Mandated tax exemptions require counties to forego meaningful local revenues to support essential public services, even if the exemptions do not serve their best interests.

Under current law, veterans with a 100 percent service-connected disability and surviving spouses are exempt from state and local real property taxes. SB 85 would require local governments to grant a property tax credit equal to the percentage of a disabled veteran’s service-connected disability rating. This bill would drastically undermine county revenues and jeopardize limited local funds for public health, schools, public safety, roadway maintenance, and other essential public services.

In general, MACo stands for local self-determination. Counties, led by their elected leaders who are directly accountable within the community, are best positioned to make decisions on local affairs – ranging from land use to budget priorities.

As such, MACo urges amendments to authorize rather than mandate the property tax credit. This will allow each jurisdiction that chooses to enact the credit to tailor it to their specific community needs. Additionally, it gives each county broad discretion to determine how much revenue it is willing to forego to provide the desirable benefits enabled by the bill.

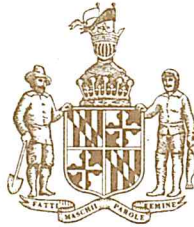
Counties stand ready to work with state policymakers to develop flexible and optional tools to create broad or targeted tax incentives, but resist state-mandated changes that preclude local input. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to give a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on SB 85.

JacksonSB85Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FWA

MICHAEL A. JACKSON
Legislative District 27
Calvert, Charles and
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Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Pensions

Public Safety, Transportation, and
Environment

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

District Office
250 Merrimac Court
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 85
PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FOR DISABLED VETERANS -
ESTABLISHED

BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 9, 2022

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Fellow Committee Members:

Senate Bill 85 is a very straightforward piece of legislation that (with the amendment in your packet) simply enables the establishment a property tax credit for disabled veterans equal to their service-connected disability rating.

The aim of this legislation is very plain – To provide an added benefit for Maryland veterans who suffer from disabilities related to their service. Presently 372,500 veterans reside in Maryland with 20% (approximately 74,500) of those veterans having some sort of service-connected disability rating.

While this legislation would likely come with a significant upfront fiscal impact, it would be a sign of good faith to show Maryland's disabled veterans their importance to the State and it could prove an invaluable added incentive for military retirees to stay in Maryland.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 85.

SB85AMENDMENT.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FWA



SB0085/143125/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

17 JAN 22
19:29:55

BY: Senator Jackson

(To be offered in the Budget and Taxation Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 85

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “Credit for” and substitute “Credits – Dwelling House of”; in the same line, strike “– Established”; strike beginning with “requiring” in line 3 down through “veterans;” in line 5; in line 6, after “veterans;” insert “authorizing the governing body of a county or municipal corporation to grant, by law, a tax credit against the property tax imposed on the dwelling house of certain disabled veterans;”; in the same line, strike “a”; in line 7, strike “credit” and substitute “credits”; and in line 10, after “9–112” insert “and 9–267”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, strike beginning with “THE” in line 16 down through “CORPORATION” in line 18 and substitute “THERE IS A CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION AGAINST THE STATE”; strike in their entirety lines 20 through 23, inclusive; in line 24, strike “(3)” and substitute “(2)”; in the same line, strike “CREDITS REQUIRED” and substitute “CREDIT ESTABLISHED”; in lines 24 and 25, strike “PARAGRAPHS (1) AND (2)” and substitute “PARAGRAPH (1)”; in line 26, before “PROPERTY” insert “STATE”; and in line 29, strike “CREDITS” and substitute “CREDIT”.

On page 3, after line 4, insert:

“9–267.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(Over)

(2) (I) “DISABLED VETERAN” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

1. IS HONORABLY DISCHARGED OR RELEASED UNDER HONORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES FROM ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, OR AIR SERVICE AS DEFINED IN 38 U.S.C. § 101; AND

2. HAS BEEN DECLARED BY THE VETERANS’ ADMINISTRATION TO HAVE A PERMANENT SERVICE–CONNECTED DISABILITY THAT RESULTS FROM BLINDNESS OR OTHER DISABLING CAUSE THAT:

A. IS REASONABLY CERTAIN TO CONTINUE FOR THE LIFE OF THE VETERAN; AND

B. WAS NOT CAUSED OR INCURRED BY MISCONDUCT OF THE VETERAN.

(II) “DISABLED VETERAN” INCLUDES AN INDIVIDUAL WHO QUALIFIES POSTHUMOUSLY FOR A SERVICE–CONNECTED DISABILITY.

(3) (I) “DWELLING HOUSE” MEANS REAL PROPERTY THAT IS:

1. THE LEGAL RESIDENCE OF A DISABLED VETERAN;
AND

2. OCCUPIED BY NOT MORE THAN TWO FAMILIES.

(II) “DWELLING HOUSE” INCLUDES THE LOT OR CURTILAGE AND STRUCTURES NECESSARY TO USE THE REAL PROPERTY AS A RESIDENCE.

(B) (1) THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY OR THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY GRANT, BY LAW, A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION AGAINST THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PROPERTY TAX THAT IS IMPOSED ON THE DWELLING HOUSE OF A DISABLED VETERAN.

(2) THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT AUTHORIZED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL EQUAL A PERCENTAGE OF THE AMOUNT OF PROPERTY TAX IMPOSED ON THE DWELLING HOUSE THAT IS EQUAL TO THE PERCENTAGE OF THE DISABLED VETERAN'S SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY RATING.

(C) THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY OR THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY PROVIDE, BY LAW, FOR:

(1) THE DURATION OF THE TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION;

(2) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

(3) ANY OTHER PROVISIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.”.