

SB 148 support letter.pdf

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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 148, Property Tax Exemption – Disabled Veterans.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GWO". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

George W. Owings III
Secretary

GWO:kss

SB 148_UNF_MML.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Fiore

Position: UNF



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 9, 2021

Committee: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Bill: SB 148 Property Tax Exemption – Disabled Veterans

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes Senate Bill 148, which would mandate a local government to grant a property tax exemption to disabled veterans with at least an 80% service connected disability or their surviving spouse.

Municipalities in Maryland have very limited revenue streams. The municipal corporation property tax is one of the few taxes municipalities are authorized to impose and set the rate. Exempting and crediting households can be a valuable tool for local officials, but MML has long-sought the authorization to provide such credits with local discretion for budgetary flexibility and has opposed revenue-decreasing mandates.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League opposes Senate Bill 148 and respectfully requests an unfavorable committee report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SB0148-BT_MACo_OPP.pdf

Uploaded by: Kevin Kinnally

Position: UNF



Senate Bill 148

Property Tax Exemption - Disabled Veterans

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: February 9, 2022

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** SB 148. This bill would significantly expand an existing property tax exemption for disabled veterans and surviving spouses.

MACo is concerned with the carryover county fiscal effects of this legislation and would prefer approaches that provide local autonomy to determine the best way to provide tax incentives, rather than those that mandate reductions in local revenue sources.

Under current law, for a property tax exemption to be granted to a disabled veteran or surviving spouse, the disabled veteran must have a 100% service-connected disability. However, if the exemption is expanded to include veterans with at least an 80% service-connected disability, counties could lose up to \$12.8 million of their most reliable revenue source per annum, according to the bill's 2022 fiscal note. This is county revenue sorely needed to fund education, public health, public safety, infrastructure, and other essential services.

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

As the focus shifts to restoring our state and local economies in a manner that is safe, equitable, and prosperous for all, counties welcome the opportunity 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.

For these reasons, MACo urges the Committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** report on SB 148.