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HB 124 Income Tax – Subtraction Modification for Veterans
Ways and Means Committee
SUPPORT
January 13, 2022

Good Afternoon Chairman Atterbeary and Members of the Ways and Means 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 HB124 Income Tax – Subtraction Modification for Veterans.**

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.

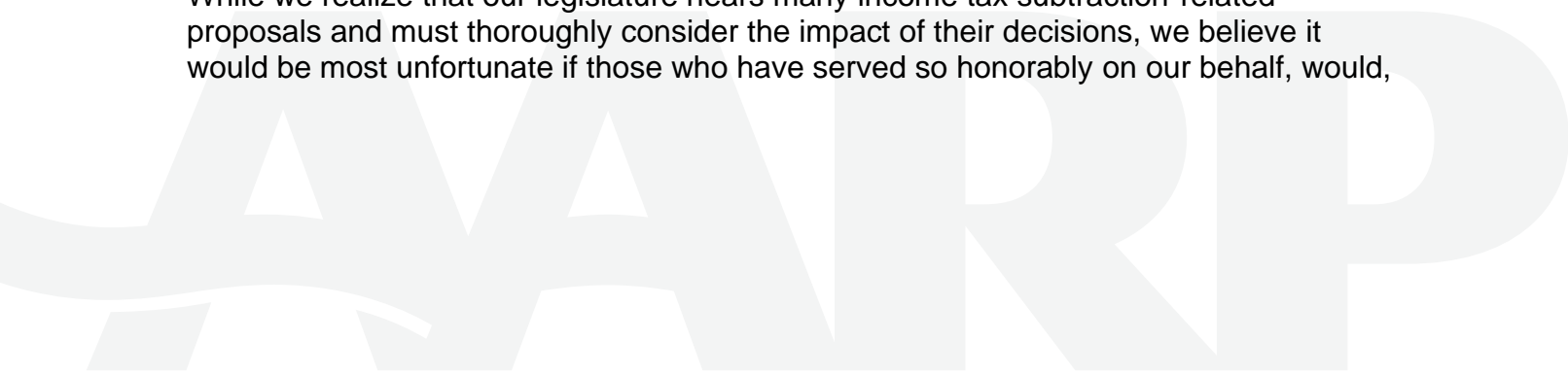
HB 124 would allow a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for certain veterans who are honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active military, naval, or air service of the United States. As you may know, this bill would allow honorably discharged Veterans to subtract \$3,000 from their federal adjusted gross income to determine their Maryland adjusted gross income

AARP Maryland supports this initiative as it:

- Honors the Service of our military Veterans through affording a state income tax subtraction;
- Acknowledges their sacrifice by noting that their income represents a small return given that it is earned through the selfless investment of decades of often hazardous service; and
- Makes Maryland a more attractive retirement option for those who have served.

AARP Maryland believes that supporting House Bill 124 is a solid economic move for all Marylanders, not just for our deserving Veterans. We believe that their decades of challenging service devoted to protecting our freedoms and ensuring our safety merit this income tax subtraction.

While we realize that our legislature hears many income tax subtraction-related proposals and must thoroughly consider the impact of their decisions, we believe it would be most unfortunate if those who have served so honorably on our behalf, would,



in retirement, choose to live in a different state, due to a more favorable treatment on retirement benefits earned through their service.

AARP believes we must honor the service and acknowledge the sacrifice of our Veterans. House Bill 124 does so, by providing greater economic viability for an honorably discharged Veteran.

We respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 124. 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.