

# **Property Tax Credit Testimony-HB 103.pdf**

Uploaded by: Annette Garland

Position: FAV

Good Afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee

My name is Annette Garland, I am the proud spouse of a disabled veteran here today to support my proposed legislation, House Bill 103, Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans. Delegate Brooks has graciously sponsored this legislation again this year. Thank you, Delegate Brooks.

The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that all Maryland disabled veterans receive a property tax credit on their primary residence based upon their VA service-connected disability rating. Currently, a property tax exemption is only available to veterans rated 100% by the VA, leaving potentially 70 thousand Maryland disabled veteran homeowners, ineligible to receive a property tax credit for their primary residence.

Homeowners, especially disabled veterans, are facing challenges in continuing to afford and stay in their homes in Maryland. The current pandemic has only further pulled the curtain back on this struggle as demonstrated by Governor Hogan's January 5<sup>th</sup> announcement of the 248 million-dollar Maryland Homeowner Assistance fund to help keep Marylanders in their homes.

Disabled veterans face more challenges than the average population. Many are unemployed, underemployed or one illness away from losing everything and depend on their service-connected disability compensation to survive. Often, disabled veterans have suffered service-connected injuries and never be compensated by the VA. In fact, the average disability rating for disabled veterans is only 40% or \$673.28.

Unfortunately, Maryland's consistently high property taxes has served as a deterrent for disabled veterans to remain in the state. Last year, Bankrate ranked Maryland as the worst state for retirement and included in their ranking criteria was property tax rates. Retirees, including disabled veterans, are fleeing Maryland for more tax friendly states. It's time to pass legislation to stop Maryland residents from fleeing this state. This bill not only serves as an incentive for disabled veterans to move to Maryland and buy a home, but to also stay here in retirement.

I urge a favorable report on House Bill 103. The passage of this bill will not only show Maryland's disabled veterans that the state values their service to our country, but will also aid in making sure the 3.4 billion dollars of yearly VA expenditures spent in Maryland, stays in Maryland. Thank you for your time and I look forward to any questions.

**HB 103 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

January 10, 2022

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Chair, Ways and Means  
131 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs supports HB 103, Property Tax for Disabled Veterans – Established.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GWO III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning and a small flourish at the end.

George W. Owings III  
Secretary

GWO:kss

**2022HB103AARP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Karen Kalla

Position: FAV



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HB 103 Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans - Established  
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 HB103 Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans – Established.**

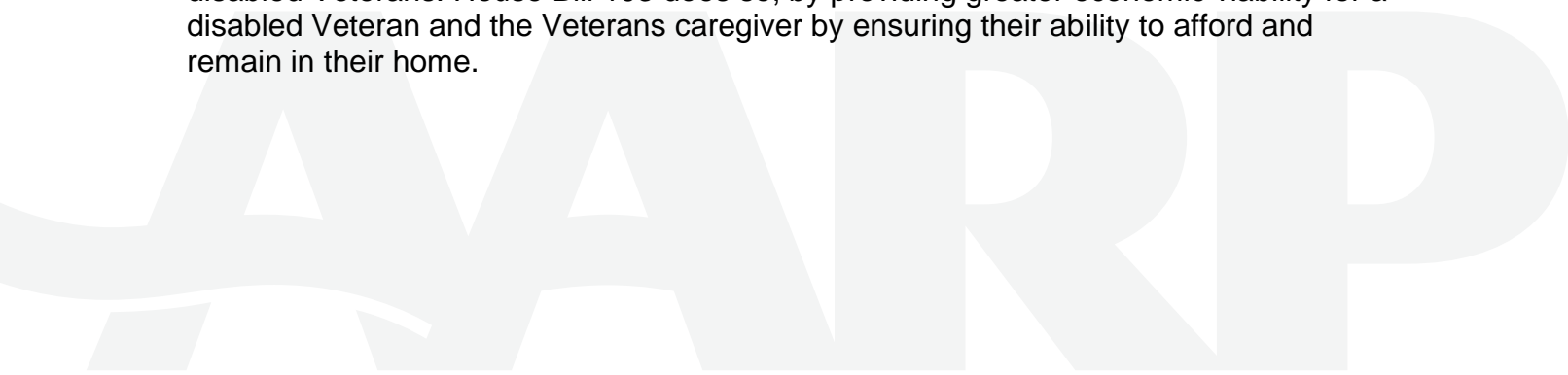
AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities,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

HB 103 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 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. House Bill 103 does so, by providing greater economic viability for a disabled Veteran and the Veterans caregiver by ensuring their ability to afford and remain in their home.



We respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 103. For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Tammy Bresnahan, Associate State Director of Advocacy at [tbresnahan@aarp.org](mailto:tbresnahan@aarp.org) or by calling 410-302-8451.

**MD Catholic Conference\_FAV\_HB0103.pdf**

Uploaded by: MJ Kraska

Position: FAV





ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

**January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**HB 103**

**Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans – Established**

**House Ways and Means 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.

House Bill 103 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. House Bill 103 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.”*

House Bill 103 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 House Bill 103.

# **HB103\_Brooks\_Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks

Position: FWA

**BENJAMIN BROOKS**  
*Legislative District 10*  
Baltimore County

CHIEF DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Economic Matters Committee

*Subcommittees*

Chair, Public Utilities

Alcoholic Beverages

Property and Casualty Insurance



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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT OF HB103  
PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FOR DISABLED VETERANS – ESTABLISHED**

Ways & Means Committee  
January 13, 2022

Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Washington and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on HB103, Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans Act of 2022.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a property tax credit system that allows disabled veterans to receive property tax credits on their home that correlates to their level of permanent 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. While this is extremely beneficial for fully disabled veterans it does not offer any protections for veterans who suffer from less than 100% disability. This bill would allow disabled veterans to receive property tax credits for their homes that parallel with their disability percentage. For example a veteran who is 50% disabled would receive a 50% property tax credit for their home.

Since this tax credit system is already established for 100% disabled veterans we do not need to create a completely new system. We just need to create a scale for the tax credits rather than solely operating on an absolute basis.

Washington County has already implemented this legislation on a local level under its 2018 Ordinance. According to the Washington County Treasurer's office, there are 229 participants enrolled in the 0-100 percent Disabled Veterans Tax Credit program. Washington County anticipates a FY-22 reduction to revenue of \$321,140.00 as a result of this program. HB103 makes this legislation statewide. According to the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, there are 83,730 disabled veterans currently residing Maryland. In 2019, there were 90,276 disabled veterans. Of those veterans,

- o 24.28% have a 0-20 percent disability rating
- o 16.81% have a 30-40 percent disability rating
- o 15.39% have a 50-60 percent disability rating

- o 26.88% have a 70-90 percent disability rating
- o 16.64% have a 100 percent disability rating.

As this committee is aware, I am a U.S. Army Veteran who had the honor of serving our country in the Vietnam War. Like many of my comrades, I too have been afflicted by some of the hazards of war. Agent Orange is a defoliant that was used to remove leaves from trees and plants. The herbicide was heavily sprayed for tactical use from 1961 to 1971. It subjected several troops to numerous complications, including cancer.

While I commend the State in their current statutes that recognize and support 100% disabled veterans, we cannot neglect all of our other disabled veterans. HB103 rectifies that gap. Maryland residents whose military service resulted in some level of disability should be able to find comfort in the fact that the state of Maryland will lend a helping hand. The life of a disabled veteran is hard enough without having to worry about whether or not they'll be able to afford the roof over their heads. As a state delegate it is my responsibility to advocate for all of my constituents, including those disabled in service.

For these reasons, I am requesting a favorable report.

With kindest regards,

Benjamin Brooks

**HB 103\_FWA\_MML.pdf**

Uploaded by: Justin Fiore

Position: FWA



## Maryland Municipal League

*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

# TESTIMONY

January 13, 2022

**Committee:** House Ways & Means

**Bill:** HB 103 Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans - Established

**Position:** Favorable with Amendment

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League appreciates the intent behind House Bill 103, 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 House Bill 103 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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**HB0103-WM\_MACo\_SWA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kevin Kinnally

Position: FWA



## **House Bill 103**

### *Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans - Established*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**  
**WITH AMENDMENTS**

To: Ways and Means Committee

Date: January 13, 2022

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 103 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill would require local governments to grant, by law, a prescriptive property tax credit for specified disabled veterans and surviving spouses.

**HB 103 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. HB 103 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 HB 103.