

SB32_BrooksSupport.pdf

Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks

Position: FAV



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF 32
Property Tax – Exemption for Dwellings of Disabled Veterans – Application

Budget & Taxation Committee
January 19, 2023

Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on SB32, Property Tax – Exemption for Dwellings of Disabled Veterans – Application Income. The purpose of this bill is to alter the application requirements for a residential property tax exemption for a dwelling house owned by a disabled veteran or a surviving spouse of a disabled veteran.

Currently under state law a disabled veteran or surviving spouse in Maryland may receive a full property tax exemption on their primary residence. To qualify, a disabled veteran or their surviving spouse must provide the veteran's discharge certificate (DD214) and a certification of the disabled veteran's disability from the US Department of Veterans Affairs. This legislation merely expands the type of qualified documentation allowed under the application process. In lieu of a certification of disability it expands the eligibility paperwork to include a rating decision.

This small change does not expand who is eligible for the existing property tax credit, but merely streamlines the application process. Often, securing the proper documentation can be burdensome on the veteran or surviving spouse. Allowing for the submission of the rating as an alternative to the certification will reduce that burden and assist already vulnerable service members and their families.

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. This herbicide was heavily sprayed for tactical use from 1961 to 1971. It subjected several troops to numerous medical complications, including cancer.

I commend the State in their current statutes that recognize and support our veterans. But those benefits are only advantageous if the process to secure them is reasonable. Let's continue our support of those members and their families but making the process to secure those benefits easier and attainable. This measure's intent is to accomplish that goal.

For these reasons, I am requesting a favorable report.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin T. Brooks". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "With kindest regards,".

Benjamin Brooks

SB0032.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Director Michael Higgs

Position: FAV

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Governor

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HEARING DATE: January 19, 2023

BILL: SB0032

TITLE: Property Tax - Exemption for Dwellings of Disabled Veterans -
Application

SDAT POSITION: SUPPORT

SB0032 broadens the type of documentation the Department can accept in order to grant a property tax credit.

Absent this legislation, a certification of the disabled veteran's disability is required. This legislation proposes to also accept a veterans affairs resting decision.

This legislation allows for an additional type of documentation that can be accepted for a disabled veteran or a surviving spouse of a disabled veteran seeking a property tax credit.

The Department wants to make tax credit applications as easy as possible to complete. Allowing other forms of identification assists with this mission.

Note: This legislation does not change who is eligible for the tax credit.

For these reasons, SDAT urges a favorable vote on SB0032.

X-icare strategies have demonstrated effectiveness

Uploaded by: Tina Parkman

Position: FAV

Re: SB3 -9-8-8 Trust fund Bill

To whom it may concern,

Our approach is collaboration. X-Itcare strategies have demonstrated effectiveness in crisis by utilizing 988 crisis services as a back-up that has saved many lives.

X-Itcare Specializes in crisis services ie; an online- life-line to help those who are experiencing substance use or mental health crisis and those who are experiencing emotional distress.

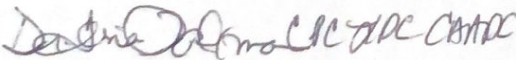
Our X-Itcare crisis staff supports consumers with 1-on-1 ie; crisis counseling, mobile recovery teams, peer specialists, emergency room recovery coaches, veterans advocates and Licensed clinicians during a mental health crisis and utilizing 988 for services to build crisis services. They are 1st responders that have utilized and shared resources that birthed out the New X-Itcare advocates which including recovery supports, text line supports, via text messaging case management, referrals: prevention and intervention services where we measured zero recidivism for x offenders on parole and 89% recovery standards in special populations ie; Veterans and Reentry and at-risk youth in residential settings. We support 988 SB3 9-8-8- Trust fund bill, they have helped agencies that are interested in creating or adjusting crisis services in their communities without having to involve the police? In addition, those who have co-occurring disorders; both mental health and substance -use disorders, visits in the ER Emergency room and discharged without receiving a higher level of care.

X-Itcare are person centered for people who are in crisis ie; suicidal or homicidal through intervention services provide supports. In addition, our 1-on1 app locate individuals through our gift 2 lift card program, make our daily rounds and mobile start-up programs in the community starting to build crisis services for our communities.

988 supports Collaborative approaches to Responding to Behavioral Health Emergencies that reviews best practices for law enforcement responding to mental health crises, strategies for collaboration, policy considerations, and more.

X-Itcare Crisis Response online- lifeline will continue to Connect Callers with Mental Health Professionals if approved and we are in favor of the SB3 -9-8-8 Trust fund Bill. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 855-948-1661-1-on-1 website xitwithdrtn.com

Kind Regards,



Dr. Tina Parkman CPC LPC, CAADC

X-ITCARE LLC/Director