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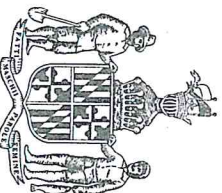
Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Health and Human Services

Legislative Policy Committee



The Senate of Maryland

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March 2, 2023

Testimony In Favor of Senate Bill 695

State Retirement and Pension System - Military Service Credit

Chairman Jackson & and Members of the Senate Pension Subcommittee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 695, which would authorize the State Retirement and Pension Systems to allow military service credit for attendance at a United States service academy.

Currently in Maryland, the State Retirement System & Pension System denies state employees credit for any portion of their military service while attending a service academy. Service academies include; The U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, or the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. Unlike federal regulations that allow federal workers to receive one year credit for each full year of attendance at a service academy – not to exceed 36 months, SB 695 would allow state employees to receive four months credit for each full year of attendance at a service academy – not to exceed 16 months.

As a committee, we are always looking for ways to support our veterans throughout their entire lives. This legislation extends the helping hand to veterans even further by making their lives just a little easier.

Once again, I respectfully request a favorable report for Senate Bill 695 which awards state employees with military service credit for their time while attending a United States service academy.