



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 16th, 2023

HB 554

Income Tax - Subtraction Modification for Military Retirement Income (Keep Our Heroes Home Act)

House Ways & Means Committee

Position: Favorable

The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

House Bill 554 would increase the amount of a certain subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for certain military retirement income received by individuals, regardless of age, for certain military service and is generally related to a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for military retirement income.

Those who are sworn to serve their country in the armed forces are servants of the security and freedom of nations. If they carry out their duty honorably, they truly contribute to the common good of the nation and the maintenance of peace (*Catechism* 2310). House Bill 554 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.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and respectfully urges a **favorable** report for House Bill 554.