



**Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs**  
**Office of the Secretary**

**WES MOORE**  
*GOVERNOR*

**ARUNA MILLER**  
*LT. GOVERNOR*

**ANTHONY C. WOODS**  
*SECRETARY*

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 773 - Human Services - Individuals with Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund  
Position: Favorable with Amendments

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (“MDVA”) supports House Bill 773 - Human Services - Individuals with Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund.

The MDVA supports the establishment of this fund to provide sailing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding opportunities for individuals with disabilities and service-disabled veterans.

We support the bill, but suggest the following amendments: (1) Nonprofits offering surfing opportunities for individuals with disabilities to be eligible for the grant funding, (2) Remove the mention of “Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries.”

These amendments would allow the fund to promote adapted water activities more equitably across the state and beyond the Chesapeake Bay region. I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable report with amendments on HB 773.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Woods". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anthony C. Woods  
Secretary