

MGAVC24_HB716.pdf

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MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VETERANS CAUCUS

TO: Chair Marc Korman
Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Maryland Veterans Caucus, House Membership

DATE: February 5, 2024

RE: **HB0716 -Motor Vehicle Registration - Fee Exemption - Unemployable Disabled Veterans**

The Maryland Veterans Caucus, House Membership respectfully requests a favorable report on **HB0716 -Motor Vehicle Registration - Fee Exemption - Unemployable Disabled Veterans.**

This bill was sponsored by Delegate Mike Griffith for the purpose of removing the vehicle registration fee for veterans deemed unemployable due to service-connected disabilities.

The Veterans Caucus mission is to study, develop, and promote legislation designed to improve the quality of life for veterans in the State of Maryland in the areas of employment, education, economics, training, and health. And to assist the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs in achieving its mission and goals, on behalf of the veterans in the State.

The Veterans Caucus Legislative Review Board offers and **recommends support and a favorable report of HB0716.**

Thank you,

Mike Rogers

Delegate Mike Rogers
House Chair, Veterans Caucus

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To study, develop, and promote legislation designed to improve the quality of life for veterans in the State of Maryland in the areas of benefits, employment, education, economics, training, and health, and to assist the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs in achieving its mission and goals, on behalf of all veterans in the State.

HB 716 - MDVA LOS.pdf

Uploaded by: Morgan Murphy

Position: FAV



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of the Secretary

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR

ANTHONY C. WOODS
SECRETARY

February 22, 2024

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

RE: HB 716 - Motor Vehicle Registration - Fee Exemption - Unemployable Disabled Veterans

Dear Chairman Korman and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (“MDVA”) supports House Bill 716 - Motor Vehicle Registration - Fee Exemption - Unemployable Disabled Veterans.

The MDVA believes it is important to recognize and honor the service of all veterans - including those who may have become unemployable disabled while serving in uniform. We acknowledge that veterans might have been awarded a disability compensation rating of less than 100%, but continue to feel a significant impact from their service-connected disabilities that prevent them from being able to maintain employment. Exempting these veterans from vehicle registration fees is a small token that shows them that their sacrifices are not forgotten by their community.

I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable report on HB 716 to exempt Maryland’s unemployable disabled veterans from vehicle registration fees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Anthony C. Woods
Secretary

HB0716 - MVA - Unemployable Disabled Veterans_SUPP

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: FAV

February 22, 2024

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

RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 716 – Motor Vehicle Registration - Fee Exemption - Unemployable Disabled Veterans

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 716 and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 716 would extend registration fee exemptions from the existing 100% disabled veteran requirement to veterans who are unemployable due to a service-connected disability as defined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Currently, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) processes exemptions for disabled veterans and offers free registration and free “Disabled Veterans” license plate sets to eligible customers. The MVA requires a customer to present a letter from Veterans Affairs (VA) confirming the customer’s 100% disabled status in order to issue the license plate set. Under the requirements of House Bill 716, the MVA would be able to accept a Veterans Affairs letter confirming those individuals who have been granted an unemployable rating and accordingly qualify for exemptions from vehicle registration fees. Recognizing veterans that have been granted an unemployable rating due to a service-related disability in this way, is one small way to acknowledge and honor their sacrifice and service to our country.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant House Bill 716 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090