



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 5, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report** – SB0214 – Maryland Military Installation Council -- Membership

Dear Chairperson Beidle and distinguished members of the Finance Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC) and as its Legislative Director, I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB0214 – Maryland Military Installation Council – Membership**, at the request of the Maryland Department of Commerce. This legislation would primarily expand the current statutory membership of the Maryland Military Installation Council (MMIC) and, in doing so, require the addition of at least one spouse of a service member.

The MMC strongly supports the expansion of the MMIC through the addition of representatives from the Maryland Department of Labor and the State Superintendent of Schools and the requirement of adding at least one military spouse. These additions will bring more direct representation to the MMIC of the views and issues of military families, who have relocated to installations in Maryland as a result of official orders, regarding employment of spouses and the education of their children.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports** SB0214 and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Finance Committee. This bill builds on the Moore Administration's Year of the Military Families, adding to the effectiveness of the MMIC's mission to support the military installations in Maryland and maximize the economic benefits to local communities.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 21 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups, representing over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

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We want to thank the Maryland Department of Commerce for requesting this legislation and its continued strong support of the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Dragics". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David L. Dragics
COL USA (Ret)
Legislative Director

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

James P. Monahan
Air Force Sergeants Association

John P. May
American Military Society

Elwood Raphael Gray
American Minority Veterans Research Project

W. W. Allen
Association of the United States Navy

Lynn A. Dask
Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

Wilbert B. Fisher
Disabled American Veterans

Seldon H. Freedberg
Distinguished Flying Cross Association

Phyllis J. Collins
Fleet Reserve Association

Seldon H. Freedberg
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Steve L. Brooker
Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association

Emmett R. Pickett
Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Robert J. Linton
Military Officers Association of America

Charles E. Galt
Military Order of the Purple Heart

E. J. ...
Montford Point Marines of America

M. L. Meese
National Association for Black Veterans

Michael P. Hays
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Christian Andreason
NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

John S. ...
Reserve Organization of America

Catherine L. McGraw
Society of Military Widows

E. J. ...
National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Veterans Affairs Directorate, NARFE MD

M. Blackwell
Veterans of Foreign Wars