

**SB0159 Courts - Military Records - Recordation and Inspection**  
**Judicial Proceedings Committee – January 30, 2024**  
**Sponsor: Senator Dawn Gile**  
**Position: Favorable**

**Testimony of Scott Poyer, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Anne Arundel County**

Thank you, Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and members of the committee, for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 159. For the record, my name is Scott Poyer, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. I also represent the 24 elected Clerks of the Circuit Court in Maryland, who are the keeper of the records for the military discharge papers this bill is related to.

The Clerks of the Circuit Court have reviewed the bill and requested that the sponsors consider two amendments:

The first recommended amendment is to remove the phrase “for good cause shown” from lines 13 and 28 on page 2 of the bill, because the clerks believe this phrase is difficult, if not impossible, to define.

The second amendment is to clarify that social security numbers do not need to be redacted until the documents are eligible for release, which is 70 years after they are presented for recording. Because the military did not start adopting social security numbers until the year 1969, and the statutes require that military discharge records be held for 70 years, that means that the first records that have social security numbers will not be eligible for release until the year 2039.

With these proposed amendments I encourage a favorable report on HB 125, and I would like to thank Senator Gile for sponsoring this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and I am available if you have any questions.