



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

January 29, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report** – SB0159 – Courts – Military Records –
Recordation and Inspection

Dear Chair Smith and distinguished members of the Judicial Proceedings 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 ***SB 0159 – Courts – Military Records – Recordation and Inspection***, sponsored by Senator Dawn Gile. This bill will alter certain provisions of the law relating to the recordation and inspection of certain military records kept by the clerk of a circuit court by including electronic records of discharge papers of any person who has served in the armed forces of the United States and presented those papers to the clerk for recording. The bill also requires the redacting of the Social Security number of an individual from any portion of the book or electronic record and any index in the book or electronic record in which the Social Security number appears.

The provisions of this bill modernize Section 2-207 of Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings. It will bring this important recordkeeping in line with current best practices and, most importantly, prevent and protect from the potential fraudulent misuse of an individual's Social Security number in the event a certified copy of the record is released.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports** SB0159 and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Judicial Proceedings Committee. This bill ensures that there will be no identity theft upon the proper release of an individual's discharge papers.

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 Senator Dawn Gile for sponsoring this legislation and her continued strong support of the veterans community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Dragics". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'D' and 'G'.

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 R. Raphael Gray
American Minority Veterans Research Project

C. W. Allen
Association of the United States Navy

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

Wilbert B. Fisher
Disabled American Veterans

Dillard H. Hood
Distinguished Flying Cross Association

Phyllis J. Collins
Fleet Reserve Association

Dillard H. Hood
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Steve L. Blood
Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association

Emmett R. Pickett
Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Robert J. Winton
Military Officers Association of America

Charles E. Galt
Military Order of the Purple Heart

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

M. L. Messer
National Association for Black Veterans

Michael P. Hays
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Christian Andreasen
NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

John S. ...
Reserve Organization of America

Catherine L. McShaw
Society of Military Widows

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

M. Blackwell
Veterans of Foreign Wars