



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VETERANS CAUCUS

TO: Chair Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Ways and Means Committee
FROM: Maryland Veterans Caucus, House Membership
DATE: February 7th, 2025

Testimony in Favor of HB0691

HB0691 – Tax Relief and Pensions Equality for Service Members Act
Chair Vanessa E. Atterbeary and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

The Maryland Veterans Caucus, House Membership respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0691 – Tax Relief and Pensions Equality for Service Members Act.

This bill was sponsored by **Delegate Patterson** with the purpose of establishing rules of interpretation related to the uniformed services; altering the rule of interpretation for "veteran"; and altering the application of certain provisions of law governing education to apply to all uniformed services, rather than only the armed forces.

Creating uniform terms in the Maryland Code relating to veterans that align with the U.S. code definitions will make it easier to understand and reference different veterans related definitions in future legislation. Creating clear categories allows future laws to be understood better and more effectively and clearly implemented to support veterans. In addition to that, the expansion of tax related benefits and rights to more categories of veterans is something the Veterans Caucus is proud to support.

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

The Veterans Caucus House Legislative Review Board offers and **recommends support and a favorable report of HB 0691.**

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 and Military Families in achieving its mission and goals, on behalf of all veterans in the State.