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Ways and Means Committee

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Election Law

Local Revenues



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**H.B. 1080: Local Government - Local Personnel - Leave with Pay Testimony**

Esteemed Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

I request today a favorable report on H.B. 1080, *School Systems - Reportable Offenses – Alterations*.

During the 2024 Legislative Session, the Maryland General Assembly passed the *Time to Serve Act of 2024* that increased the number of days of annual military paid leave (in a 12-month period) from 15 to 30 for all Maryland State employees who serve in a Reserve Component of the uniformed services, and 15 to 30 days of disaster service leave for members of specified organizations who meet specific American Red Cross criteria. I was thankful for this extension and happy to support the initiative but I'm here today to request a technical adjustment to the law.

One subcategory of individuals that was unintentionally left out of this extension were those who met the criteria outlined in all areas except they worked for local or municipal governments instead of the State. In order to rectify this issue, H.B. 1080 simply allows local and municipal governments, if their employees meet the criteria, to provide the same extension that is currently being received by State employees. By allowing this provision to be extended to local and municipal employees, the playing field will be leveled between members of qualifying units and will prevent disparity with State employees who currently have greater opportunities to perform military duty, which could advantage them in promotion and schooling opportunities. It's a simple fix but one that holds significant implications.

Also, before the Committee are two technical amendments that I would ask the Committee to consider accepting during their deliberations on this bill. One further clarifies that the local or municipal employer may provide this leave if they so choose and the other provides clarification around the extension of the 30 days for disaster service leave.

In closing, I do want to underscore, again, that this bill is simply enabling, not mandating, the extension, as I understand there are intricate nuances to employer budgets and collective bargaining agreements and deciding to provide this extension is a decision that's best made at the local level. Furthermore, I want to thank the Maryland Military Coalition for bringing this bill forward and for their continued advocacy and support of the military and veteran community in Maryland. H.B. 1080 has also been crossfiled by Senator Jennings.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mike Griffith", written over a horizontal line.

Delegate Mike Griffith  
District 35A, Cecil and Harford Counties  
Vice Chair, Maryland Veterans Caucus, Maryland General Assembly-House of Delegates