



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 21, 2025

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – HB1080 – Local Government – Local Personnel – Leave With Pay

Dear Chair Barnes and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC), I recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **HB1080 – Local Government – Local Personnel – Leave With Pay**, sponsored by Delegate Mike Griffith. This legislation authorizes counties and municipalities to increase the number of days of disaster leave and the number of days of annual military leave for their employees to be equal to those for State employees authorized under the Time to Serve Act of 2024.

SB0652 will benefit employees and the county and municipality level, ensuring that service members use paid time off to be with their families as opposed to performing disaster or military service. Absent this legislation, there exists a disparity in National Guard and federal reserve units that provides State employees, who are members, with greater opportunities to perform military duty. This disparity gives those State employees an advantage in promotion and schooling opportunities that their fellow service members, who are employees at the county and municipality level, do not equally enjoy. SB0652 will eliminate that advantage and create a “level playing field” for State and county and municipality employees who are members of these units.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports HB1080** and asks for a **FAVORABLE report**. All members of the Reserve Components (National Guard and Federal Reserve) need to be treated equally.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers, and survivors. Visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org>.

We want to thank Delegate Griffith for sponsoring this legislation and for supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

David L. Dragics
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Legislative Director

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Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Platoon 22

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars