



**Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families
Office of the Secretary**

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**Senate Bill 114- Maryland Department of Labor - Licenses - Notation of Veteran Status and
Eligibility for Benefits
SUPPORT**

February 10, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) is committed to leading veterans and their families through life's transitions, making Maryland the best state for the military-connected communities. DVMF fulfills its mission through five core programs: the Service and Benefits Program, which helps veterans access federal, state, and local earned benefits; Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, offering assisted living and skilled nursing care; the Cemetery and Memorial Program, providing dignified resting places and maintaining memorials honoring Maryland's veterans; the Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program, fostering connection and awareness; and the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund, offering financial assistance to veterans and their families in need. These programs reflect Maryland's commitment to honoring and empowering its military-connected community.

The Department of Veterans and Military Families supports Senate Bill 114- Maryland Department of Labor - Licenses - Notation of Veteran Status and Eligibility for Benefits; which authorizes the Maryland Department of Labor to include a notation of veteran status on occupational and professional licenses and assist in determining eligibility for state and federal veterans' benefits. This legislation represents a meaningful step toward improving access to essential services and benefits for Maryland's veteran community.

Maryland is home to more than 360,000 veterans, many of whom transition into civilian careers requiring professional licensing and certification. Senate Bill 114 ensures that these veterans receive recognition of their service and a streamlined process to access the benefits they have earned. By allowing veterans to voluntarily indicate their status on occupational licenses and granting them the option to receive direct outreach from executive agencies, this bill facilitates critical connections between veterans and available state and federal resources.

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Key benefits of Senate Bill 114 include:

1. **Enhanced Access to Benefits:** Veterans often face challenges in navigating the complex system of state and federal benefits. By integrating veteran status into occupational licenses, agencies can proactively provide guidance and support tailored to their needs.
2. **Simplified Employment Transition:** Many veterans possess skills and expertise that align with licensed professions. Recognizing their status on licenses can help facilitate employment pathways and reinforce the state's commitment to hiring and supporting veterans.
3. **Increased Outreach and Awareness:** The bill allows veterans to consent to being contacted by relevant agencies, ensuring they receive timely and accurate information about programs designed to support their transition to civilian life.
4. **Recognition of Military Service:** Officially acknowledging veteran status on professional licenses demonstrates Maryland's appreciation for the contributions and sacrifices of service members and helps them establish credibility in their chosen careers.

Thank you for your attention to this important proposal and I ask the committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Woods". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anthony C. Woods
Secretary