



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 4, 2025

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

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB0172 – Maryland Veterans Trust – Board of Trustees --
Membership

Dear Chair Feldman and distinguished members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC), I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB0172 – Maryland Veterans Trust – Board of Trustees -- Membership**, sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire. This bill would expand the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) to include the Secretary of Disabilities, ex officio, or the Secretary's designee.

Adding a representative from the Maryland Department of Disabilities to the Board of the MVTF would provide advocacy and guidance to the Board to ensure that, when making decisions on applications for financial assistance from veterans with disabilities, it will have input consistent with policies affecting those individuals and take their needs into consideration.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports SB0172** and asks for a **FAVORABLE report** from the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, nonpartisan 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 Senator Simonaire for sponsoring this legislation and for supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

David L. Dragics
COL (Ret), U.S. Army
Legislative Director