

2025 SB0172 Testimony For 2025-02-06.pdf

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: FAV

SB0172 – Favorable

Honorable Senators

I support altering the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Veterans Trust to include the Secretary of Disabilities or the Secretary's designee.

Please enter a favorable report for SB0172.

Alan Lang
45 Marys Mount Road
Harwood, Maryland 20776
410-336-9745
Alanlang1@verizon.net

Legislative District 30B
February 6, 2025

MDOD_SB0172_FAV_02.06.25.pdf

Uploaded by: Anne Blackfield

Position: FAV

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary
Anne Blackfield, Deputy Secretary

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor



DATE: February 6, 2025

BILL: SB 172 – Maryland Veterans Trust – Board of Trustees - Membership

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

POSITION: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to submit this letter of support for SB 172 – Maryland Veterans Trust – Board of Trustees – Membership. This bill alters the membership of the Board of Trustees to include the Secretary of Disabilities or the Secretary's designee.

Of the approximately 390,000 veterans residing in Maryland, nearly 80,000 have a service-connected disability. MDOD is honored to be invited to contribute our perspectives, experiences, and body of knowledge as a member of the Board of Trustees.

I respectfully request a favorable report for this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol A. Beatty".

Carol A. Beatty
Secretary



VeteransCaucusLegislationSupportLetter_SB172.pdf

Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks

Position: FAV



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VETERANS CAUCUS

February 4, 2025

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy & the Environment Committee
2W Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB172, Maryland Veterans Trust – Board of Trustees - Membership
Hearing Date: February 6, 2025

Dear Chairman Feldman,

Please let this letter serve as notice of the support of the Maryland General Assembly Senate Veterans Caucus for Senate Bill 172.

After review by our respective legislative committee, the Senate Veterans Caucus believes that the above-mentioned legislation would provide a valuable benefit to the veterans of the State of Maryland and requests a favorable report.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin F. Brooks".

Senator Benjamin Brooks
Senate Chair

cc: Senator Bryan Simonaire

Maryland Military Coalition SB0172 Written Testimo

Uploaded by: DAVID Dragics

Position: FAV



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

SB 172 Senator Simonaire_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE
Legislative District 31
Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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11 Bladen Street, Room 320
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3658 · 301-858-3658
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Bryan.Simonaire@senate.state.md.us

The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 172

Chairman and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee, I am here to introduce and voice my support for Senate Bill 172 - *Maryland Veterans Trust - Board of Trustees – Membership*.

Senate Bill 172 would alter the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Veterans Trust to include the Secretary of Disabilities or the Secretary's designee.

DVMF SB0172 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Morgan Murphy

Position: FAV



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

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR

ANTHONY C. WOODS
SECRETARY

**Senate Bill 172 - Maryland Veterans Trust - Board of Trustees - Membership
SUPPORT**

February 3, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Room 241, 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 Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families supports SB-172, which seeks to expand the membership of the Maryland Veterans Trust Board of Trustees. The Maryland Veterans Trust plays a critical role in supporting Veterans and their families by providing emergency financial assistance. By adding the Secretary of Disabilities to the Board of Trustees, this bill strengthens the Board's ability to advocate for and address the unique challenges faced by Maryland's disabled Veterans, including access to healthcare, employment opportunities, housing accommodations, and critical supportive services.

Maryland is home to a significant population of Veterans who have service-connected disabilities, and many of these individuals require specialized assistance to maintain a high quality of life. Ensuring that the Maryland Veterans Trust has direct representation from the Department of Disabilities will enhance interagency coordination and expand access to key programs that benefit our state's military-connected community. This inclusion aligns with Maryland's commitment to a whole-of-government approach to serving Veterans, ensuring that no one is left behind.

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

THE WINELAND BUILDING, FOURTH FLOOR
16 FRANCIS STREET, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TOLL FREE: 866-793-1577 • ANNAPOLIS: 410-260-3838 • FAX: 410-216-7928

veterans.maryland.gov
TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Woods". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'W'.

Anthony C. Woods
Secretary