



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
Department of Maryland, Inc.

The War Memorial Building, Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
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January 24, 2025

David Heredia, Jr.  
Commander, Department of Maryland  
The American Legion  
101 N. Gay Street, Suite E  
Baltimore, MD, 21202

The Honorable Bryan W. Simonaire  
Maryland State Senate  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Michael A. Jackson  
Maryland State Senate  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**cc:** Finance Committee Members

**Subject: Support for Maryland SB 67 – Notation of Veteran Status on Health Occupations Licenses**

Dear Senators Simonaire and Jackson,

On behalf of The American Legion Department of Maryland and our over 42,000 members who proudly serve the nearly 350,000 veterans and their families across Maryland, I write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 67 (SB 67). This legislation authorizes health occupations boards to include a notation indicating veteran status on professional licenses, certificates, or registrations and facilitates connecting veterans to the benefits and resources they have earned.

This legislation represents a meaningful step in honoring the sacrifices of our service members while addressing practical challenges they face. Recognizing veteran status on professional licenses serves multiple purposes:

1. **Facilitating Access to Benefits:** Veterans often face barriers to accessing the full range of resources available to them. By including a veteran designation on professional credentials, relevant agencies and organizations can more effectively identify and connect veterans to the programs they deserve.
2. **Honoring Service:** Acknowledging veteran status on licenses publicly recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of those who served, promoting a culture of respect and appreciation in the professional community.
3. **Supporting Targeted Services:** By identifying veterans within licensed professions, Maryland can develop better-targeted policies and support initiatives tailored to their unique needs, enhancing overall service delivery.

At The American Legion, along with other veteran service organizations (VSOs) such as the DAV and VFW, we work tirelessly to assist veterans at no cost. Our accredited Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) help veterans navigate the benefits system, ensuring they receive the care and support they earned. SB 67 will further these efforts by streamlining the identification process and fostering greater awareness of available benefits.

We commend your leadership in sponsoring this legislation and urge the Finance Committee to support SB 67. This bill is a critical tool for honoring Maryland's veterans and addressing their needs both practically and symbolically. Veterans have already given so much to our nation—it is our duty to ensure they are supported in their civilian lives.

Thank you for your continued advocacy for Maryland's veterans. Together, we can make meaningful strides in recognizing and supporting those who have served.

Sincerely,

*David Heredia Jr.*

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Commander, Department of Maryland  
The American Legion

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