



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
VETERANS CAUCUS

TO: Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Maryland Veterans Caucus, House Membership

DATE: January 21, 2025

RE: HB0142 – State Government - Veterans and Military Families Ombudsman -  
Establishment

The Maryland Veterans Caucus, House Membership respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 0142 - State Government - Veterans and Military Families Ombudsman - Establishment

This bill was sponsored by **Delegate April Miller**, with the purpose of the Ombudsman to serve as a resource to provide information and support to veterans and their families regarding rights and access to services, serving as an advocate for patients, consumers, employees, etc. This would require the Ombudsman to be a veteran, providing a very specialized perspective on how to assist this community of people as well as the struggles that they may face. The Ombudsman would be required to submit an annual report which would ultimately lead to the review and improvement of assistance and care our veterans deserve.

Many veterans are overwhelmed when faced with the difficulty of searching for critically needed recourses, especially during times of stress. An ombudsman position would provide that central point of contact to ease the often overwhelming task of finding needed assistance. Our veterans and military families deserve someone to be their champion, prioritize their needs, and ease any barriers to access of services.

The Veterans Caucus mission it to study, develop, and promote legislation designed to improve the quality of life for veterans and families in the State of Maryland in the areas of employment, education, economics, training, and health. And to assist the Department of Veterans and Military Families in achieving its mission and goals, on behalf of the veterans and their families in the State.

The Veterans Caucus House Legislative Review Board offers and **recommends support and a favorable report of HB 0142.**

Thank you,

*Mike Rogers*

Delegate Mike Rogers  
House Chair, Veterans Caucus

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To study, develop, and promote legislation designed to improve the quality of life for veterans in the State of Maryland in the areas of benefits, employment, education, economics, training, and health, and to assist the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs in achieving its mission and goals, on behalf of all veterans in the State.