

Letter of Support for HB0138 State Government – Veterans – Burial at State Veterans' Cemeteries (Burial Equity Act)

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The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Health and Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairperson Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

We support HB0138 “State Government – Veterans – Burial at State Veterans' Cemeteries (Burial Equity Act)” currently under your committee's review. As the Legislative Director of the Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce, we advocate for policies that benefit Veterans and their families.

This bill seeks to expand eligibility for burial in State Veterans' cemeteries to include members of the National Guard and military reserves, remove the residency requirement for certain Veterans, and establish a burial fee equal to the annual plot allowance set by the National Cemetery Administration for National Guard and military reserves service members and their eligible dependents.

This Act honors the service and sacrifices of all military members, ensuring equitable burial rights for the National Guard and Reserve members alongside active-duty Veterans. It acknowledges their contributions and provides a dignified resting place for them and their families.

We urge the committee to favorably consider the Burial Equity Act for the positive impact on our Veteran community. The Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce is ready to assist in its passage and implementation. Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Matthew Kilbane



Legislative Director,
Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce