



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

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
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ANTHONY C. WOODS
SECRETARY

**Senate Bill 48- Department of General Services - Identification Cards - Veteran Status Notation
SUPPORT**

March 14, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk 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 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 Senate Bill 48-Department of General Services - Identification Cards - Veteran Status Notation, which allows the Department of General Services (DGS) to include veteran status on identification cards issued to state employees and other authorized individuals..

DVMF believes Senate Bill 48 honors Maryland's veterans by providing visible recognition of their service and enhances their access to critical state and federal benefits. By allowing veterans to opt-in to share their status with executive agencies, SB 48 streamlines communication and improves outreach, ensuring veterans can connect with the programs and resources they have earned.

DVMF fully supports this initiative, which aligns with our mission to reduce barriers for veterans and foster greater collaboration across state agencies to serve them effectively.

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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anthony Woods". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Anthony C. Woods
Secretary