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Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB 172 - Maryland Veterans Trust - Board of Trustees - Membership

I am Senator Simonaire presenting SB 172.

Out of respect for the committee's time, and since I worked with the **Department of Veterans and Military Families**, the **Department of Disabilities** and the **Maryland Veterans Trust Board** on this consensus legislation with no known opposition, I asked my panel to just submit written letters of support.

This bill **simply adds** the Department of Disabilities as a member to the Maryland Veterans Trust Board.

The Board of Trustees was **established to oversee the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund** that "provides monetary and other assistance to both veterans and their families and to programs that support them."

Given the **Department of Disabilities' expertise** in helping those with disabilities and the fact that so many veterans have disabilities, **we** believe it is imperative and helpful to have their representation on the board.

Currently, the board has Department Secretaries or their designees from:

- Department of Veterans and Military Families,
- Department of Aging
- Department of Labor
- Department of Health
- Department of Human Services, and
- The Adjutant General of the Military Department

It **just makes sense** to have representation from the Department of Disabilities.
I ask for your favorable consideration.