



January 20, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee

Re: Senate Bill 179 - Motor Vehicle Registration – Fee Exemption – Unemployable Disabled Veterans

Position: ***Support***

Chair Smith and Vice Chair Waldstreicher:

On behalf of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), I am writing to express our ***support*** to Senate Bill 179 - Motor Vehicle Registration – Fee Exemption – Unemployable Disabled Veterans. Currently, Maryland vehicle owners are assessed a fee based on vehicle registration types. While the fee is not egregious, it still adds to the general cost of vehicle ownership and operator maintenance. SB 179 would remove this blanket fee for unemployable, service-disabled veterans.

While the motor vehicle registration fee is not arbitrary, and given the volume of motorists in the state, adds to the general revenue of the state of Maryland, the net negative effect on Maryland for relieving this small and distinguished demographic would be marginal. Conversely, the effect on the unemployable, disabled, veteran community would be impactful. In a situations like the ones in which those veterans find themselves, every cent counts.

Additionally, oftentimes theses veterans find themselves without the necessary resources needed to progress. With the removal of this fee, these disabled veterans will find the pressure relief needed in at least one more area of their lives so they can better allocate their funds and energies to moving forward with their lives.

The changes proposed would help and positively enable a key sector of our economy and society. We respectfully urge a ***favorable*** report on SB 179.

James M. Horris, MBA