



JOINT VETERANS COMMITTEE OF MARYLAND, Inc.
TESTIMONY

HB0248 / SB0179 Motor Vehicle Registration – Fee Exemption – Unemployable Disabled Veterans
20 January 2025

House Hearing: Environment and Transportation 30 January 2025 1:30pm

Senate Hearing: Judicial Proceedings 22 January 2025 10:00am

The Maryland Joint Veterans Committee (JVC) **OPPOSES** HB0248 / SB0179 Motor Vehicle Registration – Fee Exemption – Unemployable Disabled Veterans for the following reasons:

- The bill's new language specifically calls out UNEMPLOYABLE veterans can only receive exemption for 1 vehicle and it must be service related
- This bill discriminates against UNEMPLOYABLE veteran because they are being deprived the same benefits their counterparts who can work
 - Only focuses on individuals who are unemployable and restricts them to exemption of 1 vehicle registration fees
 - Individuals who lost the use of a hand, arm, leg, sight or are 100% disabled but able to work are unlimited in the number of vehicles exempt from fees
- The VA categories of Total disability individual unemployability means the individual cannot work and is on a fixed income
 - UNEMPLOYABLE disabled veterans may require more than 1 vehicle to assist the unemployable veteran
- One reason some disabled veterans have remained in Maryland is due to this benefit

The JVC encourages an **UNFAVORABLE** vote.

Additionally, we would like to bring your attention to the Maryland Department of Transportation's implementation of this law in regards to veterans. Per their 2024 written testimony on HB0716, MDOT said "The MVA requires a customer present a letter from Veteran Affairs (VA) confirming the customer's 100% disabled status in order to issue the license plate set." In doing so, MDOT has placed great restrictions on veterans to obtain this benefit than the law provides. If you lose use of a hand, arm or leg due to service, this does not mean the VA will rate you 100% disabled. We recommend you review the processes and procedures established by MDOT in relation to this code to ensure the veterans are receiving the benefits prescribed by MD law.

The Joint Veterans Committee of Maryland, Inc. is a community of congressionally chartered veteran organizations in the State of Maryland drawn together by strong bonds of respect and mutual ideas and ideals to promote true patriotism, to pursue by legislation and other activities, to advance the welfare of all veterans, their widows, their orphans, and their dependents. JVC is comprised of the following Maryland Veteran Service Organizations: American Veterans (AMVETS), Marine Corps League (MCL), Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), Catholic War Veterans (CWV), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US (VFW).

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