



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

January 29, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
The Honorable Jeff Waldstreicher
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Seat Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report-SB0273** – Peace Orders and Protective Orders – Military Protection Orders

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland Military Coalition recommends a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on SB0273 – Peace Orders and Protective Orders – Military Protection Orders, sponsored by Senator Michael Jackson.

This bill would authorize a judge to consider whether a military protection order has been issued against a respondent when determining whether to grant a temporary peace order or a temporary protective order. Additionally, the bill requires a law enforcement officer to notify military law enforcement agencies that an individual may have violated a military protective order.

Interpersonal violence is a behavior that asserts power or control over another person that includes various forms of abuse, which may negatively impact service member readiness and resiliency. Addressing issues of sexual assault, domestic violence, abuse and harassment within the military is important for maintaining a resilient and ready force.

The military's service branches have an obligation to know what is happening with their service members both while they are on and off duty. The implementation of interpersonal violence policies at the state level empowers victims, deters offenders and creates an environment for military families that is conducive to resilience and readiness.

Maryland can enhance protections relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, including filing procedures for protection orders to assist victims of interpersonal violence. This bill will enhance protections for victims of interpersonal violence because it will allow military protective orders to be admitted as evidence when applying for civilian protective orders. In addition, by requiring civilian law enforcement officers to notify military law enforcement agencies that an individual

may have violated a military protective order, the bill enhances protections for victims of interpersonal violence on post.

Significantly, the provisions of this bill are a priority of the Department of Defense State Liaison Office.


<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/priorities/state-response-to-military-interpersonal-violence>

The MMC **strongly supports SB0273** and asks the Judicial Proceedings Committee for a **FAVORABLE report**.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups, representing over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

We want to thank Senator Jackson for his commitment to our veterans and the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,



Jayson L. Spiegel
LTC, Army Reserve (Ret.)
President



Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

Maryland National Association of Retired Federal Employees Veterans Committee

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Platoon 22

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars