



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Maryland, Inc.

The War Memorial Building, Baltimore, Maryland 21202
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January 29, 2025

David Heredia, Jr.
Commander, Department of Maryland
The American Legion
101 N. Gay Street, Suite E
Baltimore, MD, 21202

The Honorable Bryan W. Simonaire
Maryland State Senate
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Michael A. Jackson
Maryland State Senate
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

cc: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable Johnny Salling, J.B. Jennings, Jason Gallion, Johnny Mautz, and Jack Bailey

Subject: Support for SB 280 – Judicial and Public Safety for Service Members Act

Dear Senator Simonaire and Honorable Co-Sponsors,

On behalf of The American Legion Department of Maryland and our over 42,000 members, I would like to express our full support for Senate Bill 280 – The Judicial and Public Safety for Service Members Act. This vital piece of legislation acknowledges the sacrifices made by our service members and seeks to provide them with the legal protections and public safety measures they rightfully deserve.

Our service members, including active-duty personnel, National Guard members, and Reservists, dedicate their lives to protecting our freedoms. In return, it is our duty as a state to ensure they are not unduly burdened by judicial or public safety matters that can arise while they are deployed or serving in demanding capacities. SB 280 strengthens legal safeguards for service members, addressing issues such as:

- Judicial Protections – Ensuring that service members are not disadvantaged in legal proceedings due to their military obligations.
- Public Safety Measures – Enhancing law enforcement and emergency response coordination to support service members and their families.
- Fair Access to Legal Resources – Providing military personnel with appropriate accommodations in judicial matters, preventing undue penalties resulting from service-related absences.

This legislation aligns with Maryland's longstanding commitment to its veterans and military community. It reinforces the principles of fairness and justice while ensuring that those who protect us are protected in return.

On behalf of the over 350,000 veterans, active-duty service members, National Guard, and Reservists in Maryland, I respectfully urge you to support SB 280 and advocate for its swift passage. Our service members stand for us every day—this bill is a meaningful step to stand for them.

Thank you for your time and commitment to supporting those who serve. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and appreciate your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

David Heredia Jr.

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