



TESTIMONY FOR HB0034

Sales and Use Tax - Tax-Free Day - Veterans' Day

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Allen
Committee: Ways and Means
Organization Submitting: Shore Progress
Person Submitting: Jared Schablein, Chair
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0034 on behalf of Shore Progress. Shore Progress (formerly LSPC) is a nonpartisan civic organization covering the Eastern Shore of Maryland. We are committed to building strong communities across the Eastern Shore by building the Progressive movement.

We enthusiastically support the passage of this legislation, establishing November 11, Veterans' Day, as an annual tax-free day for veterans. This bill is a meaningful way to honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's heroes while providing them with tangible economic relief.

By creating a tax-free day for veterans, this legislation achieves several key objectives:

1. **Recognition of Service:** Veterans have made immense sacrifices to protect our freedoms and uphold our nation's values. A tax-free day is a powerful acknowledgment of their contributions, allowing them to benefit directly from their service.
2. **Economic Impact:** Veterans, like many other Marylanders, face financial challenges, particularly as they transition to civilian life. By exempting veterans from the sales and use tax on November 11, this bill provides much-needed financial relief, empowering them to save money on essential goods and services.
3. **Simplicity and Accessibility:** The bill includes a straightforward process for veterans to demonstrate their eligibility for the exemption, requiring only a valid driver's license or government-issued identification card with a veteran designation. This ensures that the benefits of the tax-free day are accessible to all eligible veterans without creating undue administrative burdens.
4. **Community and Commerce:** Besides its benefits for veterans, the tax-free day may encourage increased consumer activity in local businesses. This, in turn, supports Maryland's economy and fosters stronger connections between veterans and their communities.

As an organization committed to supporting the individuals and families who make Maryland a vibrant place to live and work, Shore Progress views this bill as a meaningful and practical step toward honoring our veterans and addressing their unique needs.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.