



Frederick County Council Steven J. McKay, District 2

HB1611 – Property Tax – Credit for Dwelling House of Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses – Income Eligibility

DATE: April 2, 2026
COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: Steven J. McKay, Frederick County Council, District 2

I would like to strongly urge the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee to give HB1611 a favorable report to enable Baltimore City and all Maryland counties to raise the income eligibility requirements for the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Credit.

As a member of the Frederick County Council, I sponsored this bill which received unanimous support from our Council and our County Executive. I greatly appreciate Delegate Pippy for taking a leadership role and bringing this bill forward for your consideration.

This is not the bill that I initially authored. The original bill would have allowed Baltimore City and Maryland counties to determine what – if any – income limitations should be placed on this property tax credit. The bill was amended in the House to remove the proposed local control of income eligibility, and then significantly increased the income levels in State code. From a blanket \$100,000 income limit, the amended bill allows single filers to qualify with income up to \$150,000, and dual filers up to \$300,000.

I support these amendments.

The current \$100,000 income eligibility limit was first put in State code in 2020. This amount of income no longer means what it did six years ago. In effect, by not adjusting this income limit over the last six years, relatively more and more of our Disabled Veterans have been denied this tax credit as inflation-adjusted income has risen.

Most importantly, however, is that our Disabled Veterans have served this nation, have served us all, and given of themselves so much. We owe them a debt that we can never adequately repay. The Disabled Veterans Property Tax Credit program is only a small token of our esteem and our gratitude for their service and sacrifice. That gratitude shouldn't be hedged by artificial income limitations, but if it must, then those income limitations should keep pace with inflation and should be made higher by this bill.

I hope that you will agree and provide a “Favorable” report on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve McKay". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Steve McKay
Frederick County Council, District 2