



TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation

DATE: March 11, 2026

POSITION: Favorable with Amendments

BILL: SB 980

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports the intent of Senate Bill 980, which seeks to expand property tax relief for our disabled veterans and their families. However, to ensure this tool is effective and sustainable for all 157 Maryland cities and towns, we respectfully request an amendment to grant local governing bodies the authority to establish their own income thresholds and filing criteria.

While SB 980 is technically an "enabling" bill, the reality for Maryland's 157 cities and towns is more complex. When the State alters the eligibility criteria for an existing optional tax credit, it creates a **de facto mandate** for those municipalities that have already enacted the credit into local law. These communities are then forced to choose between absorbing an unbudgeted revenue loss caused by expanded eligibility or repealing a popular veteran benefit entirely. Neither is a comfortable outcome.

SB 980 establishes statewide income limitations of \$100,000 for individual filers and \$200,000 for joint filers. While MML appreciates the recognition of the financial differences between single and dual-income households, a "one-size-fits-all" cap does not account for the vastly different economic realities across the State.

Municipal leaders are best positioned to balance the noble goal of providing veteran tax relief with the necessity of maintaining essential local services. By shifting the authority to set these specific parameters to the local level, the General Assembly can ensure this credit is a sustainable tool for veteran support.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests a **favorable report** on Senate Bill 980 with the requested amendment.

For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:

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