

## **SB 980 – Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Department of the Mid-Atlantic of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, I respectfully submit this testimony in support of SB 980, introduced by Senator Johnny Ray Salling.

In 2020, the Maryland General Assembly enacted Article – Tax – Property § 9-265, enabling local jurisdictions to grant property tax credits to disabled veterans rated between 50% and 99% by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

While this legislation represented an important step toward supporting disabled veterans, experience at the local level has demonstrated that the current income threshold does not reflect the economic realities in many Maryland jurisdictions. Maryland remains one of the highest-cost states in the nation, and many counties have median household incomes that significantly exceed the \$100,000 threshold currently set in statute. As a result, many disabled veterans living in high-cost communities are excluded from a program designed to help them remain in their homes.

SB 980 makes several important improvements. The bill updates the disability rating ranges to align with Department of Veterans Affairs rating increments and revises the income thresholds for eligibility. These changes will make the program more practical to administer and expand access to veterans who need assistance maintaining housing stability.

For many disabled veterans, property tax relief is not simply a financial benefit, it is a way to support “aging in place.” Aging in place allows veterans to remain in their homes, maintain independence, and continue participating in the communities they served. In high-cost jurisdictions, property taxes can become a significant barrier to that stability.

Maryland benefits greatly from the continued presence and contributions of its veterans. Providing reasonable property tax relief helps ensure that disabled veterans can remain in their communities and maintain the quality of life they earned through their service.

For these reasons, the Department of the Mid-Atlantic of the Jewish War Veterans respectfully urges a **favorable report on SB 980**.

Respectfully submitted,

**Scott Schlesinger**, Commander  
Department of the Mid-Atlantic Area and Israel  
Jewish War Veterans of America