

# **HB0139\_Rogers\_BudgetandTaxation**

Uploaded by: Delegate Rogers

Position: FAV

**MIKE ROGERS**  
*Legislative District 32*  
Anne Arundel County

Economic Matters Committee

*Subcommittees*

Banking, Consumer Protection, and  
Commercial Law

Unemployment Insurance



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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

**Testimony in Favor of HB0139**  
**Sales and Use Tax - Tax-Free Day - Veterans' Day**

**Chair Guy Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,**

I respectfully request a favorable report of HB0139. The purpose of this bill is to establish a sales tax-free day on Veterans Day for veterans who have served in the Uniformed Services of the United States. The relief would only apply if the taxable price of the item for sale is \$2,000.00 or less. Furthermore, the Comptroller maintains sole discretion to suspend the tax-free day.

Within its border, Maryland has 20 military installations that make up a key part of the state's economy. According to the Maryland Department of Veterans & Military Families, **Maryland is home to nearly 360,000 veterans and 100,000 active-duty service members, reservists, national guard and dependents.** A tax-free day on November 11<sup>th</sup> would not only provide a tangible benefit in the form of financial relief but also serve as a public acknowledgment of their service. It is a small yet powerful way to say "thank you" to our veterans, letting them know that their sacrifices are recognized and valued.

The concept of a tax-free day is not new to Maryland. Each year, the Comptroller's Office and numerous retailers successfully implement a tax-free week dedicated to supporting parents and teachers during the back-to school season in August. Similarly, this bill could positively impact the economy by encouraging spending within our state. Veterans, who might otherwise refrain from making certain purchases, would be incentivized to spend more, knowing they are exempt from the sales tax on this day. This increase in spending would not only benefit the veterans but also stimulate local businesses and, by extension, the state's economy.

Maryland can do more for those who have sacrificed so much by serving. HB139 represents an opportunity for Maryland to lead by example in showing gratitude to our veterans. With minimum fiscal impact, it's a practical measure that offers financial relief, stimulates the economy, and most importantly, serves as a symbol of our collective appreciation for those who have served with honor.

HB139 will also set Maryland apart in the region as the only state offering tax-exemption day for Maryland Veterans. We can and we must do more by our brave men and women. I respectfully request a favorable report on HB0139.

Sincerely,

*Mike Rogers*

Mike Rogers  
Maryland Delegate, 32<sup>nd</sup> District

# **Maryland Catholic Conference\_FAV\_HB139\_SenateCross**

Uploaded by: Diane Arias

Position: FAV



MARYLAND  
CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE

**April 1, 2026**

**House Bill 139**  
**Sales and Use Tax - Tax-Free Day - Veterans' Day**  
**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

**Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

**House Bill 139** establishes November 11 as a tax-free day each year during which an exemption from the sales and use tax is provided for sales to certain veterans if the taxable price of the item for sale is less than \$2,000; and requiring an individual, in order to qualify for the exemption, to provide to the vendor evidence of eligibility for the exemption.

Maryland is home to a substantial veteran community — with approximately 360,000 veterans residing in the State, along with tens of thousands of active-duty service members, reservists, National Guard members, and their families.<sup>1</sup> This represents a significant portion of Maryland's population and underscores the continued presence and contribution of service members and their households within the State. This legislation honors the sacrifices made by those who have served and their families by offering tangible recognition on Veterans Day. Providing tax exemption acknowledges their service and supports veterans' economic well-being with minimal fiscal impact. The \$2,000 cap on exempt purchases helps ensure that any revenue foregone by state and local governments remains limited.

Designating a tax-free day on November 11 could also incentivize increased consumer activity on that day. Sales tax holiday periods in other states and contexts have been promoted as a way to encourage shopping during specific time frames, potentially drawing customers into local stores and keeping consumer spending within the community.<sup>2</sup> While the broader economic effects of sales tax holidays vary, short-term boosts in purchasing behavior are

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<sup>1</sup> [https://veterans.maryland.gov/Pages/Landing-Zone-Maryland.aspx?utm\\_source](https://veterans.maryland.gov/Pages/Landing-Zone-Maryland.aspx?utm_source)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ainvest.com/news/tax-holiday-impacts-retail-consumer-spending-short-term-booms-long-term-opportunities-retail-investors-2507/?utm\\_source](https://www.ainvest.com/news/tax-holiday-impacts-retail-consumer-spending-short-term-booms-long-term-opportunities-retail-investors-2507/?utm_source)

commonly observed around these events, particularly when combined with holiday-season spending trends.

More importantly, this measure affirms the dignity and sacrifice of veterans and their families by offering recognition beyond symbolic gestures. Veterans and their households often face unique financial pressures related to service, reintegration, health care, and employment. Providing a tax exemption on Veterans Day acknowledges those burdens and conveys gratitude in a practical, measurable way. For these reasons, House Bill 139 offers a meaningful and fiscally responsible mechanism to honor veterans, support consumer activity in local communities, and recognize the sacrifices of those who have served Maryland and our nation.

For these reasons, the Maryland Catholic Conference asks for a favorable report on **HB 139**.

Thank you for your consideration.

**support hb139.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rebecca Hamilton

Position: FAV

I am writing to express my support for Maryland House Bill 139.

HB 139 would designate Veterans' Day (November 11) as a **tax-free day** for qualifying purchases by veterans, exempting sales and use tax on items under \$2,000. This bill recognizes the service and sacrifices of our veterans and offers a meaningful, practical way to honor them.

By creating this targeted exemption, HB 139 supports veterans in our community and encourages retail activity on a special day of recognition. I respectfully urge you to support HB 139 and its benefits for Maryland's veterans.

Thank you for your consideration.

**SB 0009\_HB 139\_ Sales and Use Tax - Tax-Free Day**

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: FAV

**SB 0009/HB 139:** Sales and Use Tax - Tax-Free Day - Veterans' Day: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Budget & Taxation Committee:

I am writing as a Maryland resident to express my strong support for **SB 0009/HB 139**, which would establish a tax-free day on Veterans' Day.

This legislation is a meaningful way to recognize and honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans. **By providing a tax-free shopping day on November 11, Maryland can demonstrate tangible appreciation for those who have served, while also offering modest financial relief to veterans and their families.**

In addition, this measure has the potential to benefit local businesses by encouraging increased consumer activity on Veterans' Day, creating a positive economic impact for communities across the state.

**Establishing a tax-free day tied to Veterans' Day is a practical and symbolic gesture that reflects Maryland's commitment to honoring those who have defended our freedoms.**

I respectfully urge you to **support SB 0009/HB 139**.

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals

**hb139.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nicole Mcdonald

Position: UNF

## HB 139 – UNFAVORABLE

**Topic:** Sales and Use Tax – Tax-Free Day – Veterans' Day

**The McDonald Mandate: Respect is More Than a One-Day Sale**

**To the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:**

My name is **Ms. McDonald**. I am a candidate for Delegate in District 45. I am here to testify as **UNFAVORABLE** on HB 139. While this bill wears the mask of "honoring veterans," it is actually another example of the State offering a crumb while they take away the whole loaf.

### 1. A One-Day Gimmick vs. Year-Round Neglect

HB 139 proposes a tax-free day on Veterans' Day. We do not need a one-day shopping discount; we need year-round accountability. Many of our veterans are the very people facing an **imminent threat of homelessness** in District 45. They are the ones being hit by the "stripping of services" from the DDA and the Department of Health. To offer a tax break on a toaster or a TV while these men and women are losing their disability care and housing stability is the definition of "Jive."

### 2. The "Rainy Day" Hypocrisy

The State claims it can afford the "fiscal impact" of a tax-free day, yet it sits on a **\$2.2 Billion Rainy Day Fund** while our veterans are drowning in the streets. You found the money for a retail gimmick, but you can't find the money to keep community hubs like **2100 Guilford Avenue** open? My mandate is: **Stop the Fire Sale**. If you want to honor veterans, keep the State's assets and turn them into veteran-led vocational centers and grocery hubs—don't just give them a discount at the mall.

### 3. Stop the Selective Respect

We see the same pattern in **HB 607**, where officials are getting **\$185,000 raises**. You are taking care of the "top brass" and the "retailers," but you are ignoring the citizens at the bottom. I cannot support a "Tax-Free Day" while the State is still failing to provide the basic resources it owes to the people of Baltimore.

## THE CONTRAST: WHAT THE STATE CUTS VS. WHAT THE OFFICIALS GET

**WHAT THE STATE CUT (Services taken from Veterans & Citizens):**

- **\$300 Million:** Total cuts to the Developmental Disabilities (DDA) budget.
- **\$150 Million:** Direct general fund cuts to disability services.

- **Medical Eligibility:** Procedural "stripping" of health services (**SB 742**).
- **Housing Stability:** Lack of funding for permanent community-led housing.

**WHAT THE OFFICIALS GET (What they kept for themselves):**

- **Tax-Free Gimmicks:** The cost of lost revenue from **HB 139**.
- **\$2.2 Billion:** Sitting in the **Rainy Day Fund** while vets are on the street.
- **\$185,000 Salaries:** Massive pay hikes for state officials (**HB 607**).
- **Asset Sales:** Selling off 2100 Guilford to private developers.

**Conclusion**

I urge an **UNFAVORABLE** report. Respect is not a one-day sale; it is a lifetime commitment. Stop the jive and start driving real resources back into our neighborhoods.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Ms. McDonald**

*Candidate for Delegate, District 45*

**By Authority of: Nichole McDonald for District 45, Lonetta Mason, Treasurer**