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SB 301 – Veterans’ Discounts Act
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 12, 2026
FAVORABLE

Good afternoon, Chair Feldman and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. My name is Larry Zarzecki, and I am an advocacy volunteer with AARP Maryland.

AARP Maryland represents more than 850,000 members statewide and is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization advocating for Marylanders age 50 and over and their families. We thank Senators Simonaire, Brooks, Carozza, Ellis, Gallion, Gile, Smith, Watson, and West for sponsoring this legislation.

AARP has four areas of focus in serving military families, including fighting fraud, helping with career and employment opportunities through the Military Service Job Center, caregiving, and access to benefits.

What does SB 301 do?

This bill authorizes Maryland’s state agencies, licensing boards, and regulatory departments to waive or reduce statutory fees for veterans. Importantly, the bill does not mandate fee waivers, but permits agencies to offer them after adopting regulations that establish standards, eligibility, and processes.

This bill reduces barriers for veterans seeking to enter the workforce by obtaining occupational licenses, renewing certifications, registering small businesses, or pursuing trades, security work, or home improvement contracting.

SB 301 supports veteran employment by authorizing agencies to lighten these financial burdens. SB 301 importantly does not require agencies to waive fees but enables relief when administratively doable. This balanced approach ensures fiscal responsibility while expanding support for veterans.

For these reasons, we recommend a favorable report for SB 243.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick, AARP Maryland Advocacy Director, at swestrick@aarp.org or by calling 410-310-0374.

