



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

March 23, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB0161 – Natural Resources – State Park Entry Fee – Exemptions

Dear Chair Korman and distinguished members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition¹ (MMC), I write to request a **FAVORABLE Report** by the Committee on **SB0161 – Natural Resources – State Park Entry Fee – Exemptions**, sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire. This bill would exempt from State Park Entry fees former Maryland National Guard members if that individual was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. **This bill was unanimously passed by the Senate.**

The MMC supports the intent of this bill. Members of the National Guard have served in uniform on weekends and at annual training, many for years beyond their initial commitment. The MMC believes they deserve this modest recognition and benefit.

The Maryland Military Coalition supports SB0161 and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Environment and Transportation Committee.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers and survivors. Visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank Senator Simonaire for sponsoring this legislation and supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

David L. Dragics
COL (Ret), U.S. Army
Legislative Director

¹ See attached list of member organizations.



Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars