



## MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

January 26, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB0199 – Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund – Eligible Companions

Dear Chair Beidle and distinguished members of the Finance Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition<sup>1</sup> (MMC) and as its Legislative Director, I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB0199 – Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund – Eligible Companions**, sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire. This bill authorizes the inclusion of an accompanying family member or direct support professional of an individual with disabilities or of a service-disabled veteran in grants provided by the Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund.

The MMC strongly supports this bill as it corrects the omission of “*accompanying family members or direct support professionals*” who assist individuals with disabilities or service-disabled veterans in the boating activities supported by this fund, which was established in 2024. It is a **no-cost, common-sense** amendment to the Maryland Code.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports SB0199** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Finance Committee.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 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

<sup>1</sup> 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

Platoon 22

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars