



Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families
Office of the Secretary

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR

ED ROTHSTEIN
ACTING SECRETARY

**Senate Bill 199 - Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund - Eligible
Companions
SUPPORT**

January 28, 2026

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

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) is committed to leading veterans and their families through life's transitions, making Maryland the best state for military-connected communities. Our department supports Senate Bill 199 - Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund - Eligible Companions.

In 2024, DVMF was proud to support the creation of the Individuals with Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund. This year, SB199 expands the fund's purpose to include an eligible companion, meaning an accompanying family member or direct support professional of an individual with disabilities or of a service-disabled veteran participating in sailing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, or surfing activities.

Including eligible companions in the fund's purpose shows Maryland's commitment to understanding the day-to-day realities of living with a disability, and reinforces Governor Moore's pledge to leave no one behind. This bill has no fiscal impact.

Thank you for your time, and I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward C. Rothstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed Rothstein
Acting Secretary