



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

January 23, 2026

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

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB0096 – Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans – Terminology – Active Service Members

Dear Chair Beidle and distinguished members of the Finance Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition¹ (MMC) and as its Legislative Director, I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on ***SB0096, Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans – Terminology – Active Service Members***, sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire. This bill is a continuation of the centralization and modernization of Maryland's Code with respect to military terms, synchronizing it with the federal code related to the term "service members."

The MMC supports this bill as it corrects outdated language in Article – Health – General, § 7.5-210, subparagraphs (a) (2) (i), (a) (2) (iii), (a) (2) (iv), and (a) (2) (v); subparagraph (b) (2); and subparagraph (e) (1) (ii).

The Maryland Military Coalition **supports SB0096** 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 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/>.

¹ See attached list of member organizations.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David L. Dragics". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

David L. Dragics
COL USA (Ret)
Legislative Director



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