



Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families  
Office of the Secretary

WES MOORE  
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER  
LT. GOVERNOR

ED ROTHSTEIN  
ACTING SECRETARY

**Senate Bill 317 - Credit Regulation - Maximum Interest Rate for Active Service Members  
(Service Members Civil Relief Act)  
SUPPORT**

February 12, 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 317 - Credit Regulation - Maximum Interest Rate for Active Service Members (Service Members Civil Relief Act).

Senate Bill 317 is crafted based on the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, which provides legal and financial protections for active duty service members and their spouses to reduce the stress and financial burden of meeting obligations while being called to service. One of these protections is a 6% interest cap on *pre-service* debts. SB 317 takes this protection further by including a 6% interest rate cap on financial obligations while on active duty - *regardless if the obligation was incurred before or after they were activated*.

Military families, like all families, must live by strict budgets to thrive and achieve the American Dream. Keeping more of their income is essential to help them thrive, and keep them living here in Maryland. SB 317 goes some way toward making that goal possible. 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