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February 17, 2026

TO: The Honorable Melissa Wells
Chair, Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

FROM: Tiffany Clark
Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: House Bill 420 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act
(Support in Concept)

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) supports in concept **House Bill 420 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act**. House Bill 420 authorizes active service members and their spouses to practice an occupation or profession in Maryland using a license from another jurisdiction when relocating to the State under military orders, and expands eligibility for expedited veteran licensing.

This legislation removes unnecessary barriers for military families while ensuring Maryland remains compliant with federal protections for servicemembers. House Bill 420 makes it easier for our active service members and their spouses to continue their professional careers without delay when they relocate to Maryland under military orders. By recognizing valid out-of-state licenses and eliminating the one-year discharge restriction for expedited veteran licensing, this bill acknowledges the sacrifices military families make and reduces the administrative burden that often forces qualified professionals to wait months before they can work in their chosen fields.

The bill appropriately mirrors federal protections under 50 U.S.C. § 4025a (Portability of Professional Licenses of Servicemembers and Their Spouses) while incorporating these rights directly into Maryland law. This legislative framework will provide clarity for Maryland's numerous licensing authorities and ensure consistent implementation across health occupations and professional boards.

For military spouses who often face repeated career disruptions with each relocation, this legislation provides critical employment continuity. Maryland is home to significant military installations, including Fort Meade, the U.S. Naval Academy, and Andrews Air Force Base. This bill recognizes that military families bring valuable skills and experience to our state's workforce, and removing licensing obstacles benefits both these families and Maryland's economy.

We appreciate the General Assembly's work on this important policy and welcome the opportunity to share our perspective. For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General respectfully urges the Committee to give House Bill 420 a favorable report.

Cc: