



One Park Place | Suite 475 | Annapolis, MD 21401-3475  
1-866-542-8163 | Fax: 410-837-0269  
aarp.org/md | md@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpmd  
facebook.com/aarpmd

**HB 270 – Military Family Inclusion Act**  
**Government, Labor, and Elections Committee**  
**January 27, 2026**  
**FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and members of the Government, Labor, and Committee. I am Jim Campbell, President Emeritus of AARP Maryland and a former state Delegate from Baltimore City. AARP Maryland represents more than 850,000 members statewide and is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization advocating for Marylanders age 50 and over and their families.

AARP's priorities include helping all Marylanders achieve financial security and access to affordable utilities and health care. AARP Maryland supports HB 270 – Military Family Inclusion Act, also known as the departmental bill for the Department of Veterans and Military Families.

Our interest in supporting this bill stems primarily from the important changes it makes to the composition of the Maryland Commission on Caregiving. AARP Maryland is a proud community partner to the Commission, which coordinates statewide planning, development, and implementation of family caregiver support services. The bill adds one family caregiver of a service-disabled veteran as a member of the commission. AARP Maryland believes that this designation is an important elevation of the role of family caregivers in general and of the unique needs and challenges faced by those caring for service-disabled veterans.

Military families often navigate complex and evolving caregiving responsibilities that can place significant emotional, financial, and logistical strain on households. By ensuring that the Commission includes the perspective of a family caregiver of a service-disabled veteran, HB 270 helps Maryland take a meaningful step toward more informed, compassionate, and effective policymaking.

This bill reinforces the importance of elevating lived experience in the design of caregiver support services and underscores Maryland's commitment to honoring those who have served and those who support them every day.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick, AARP Maryland Advocacy Director, at [swestrick@aarp.org](mailto:swestrick@aarp.org) or by calling 410-310-0374.

