



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 13, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells
Chair, Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – HB0420 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act

Dear Chair Wells and distinguished members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition¹ (MMC), I write to request a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **HB0420 – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act**, sponsored by Delegate Mike Rogers. This bill adds a new section to Article – State Government and amends the same Article plus 15 others in the Maryland Code (“the Code”) resulting in making the Code synonymous with the provisions of 50 USC § 4025 a., Portability of professional licenses of servicemembers and their spouses, which was added in 2023 and updated by the U.S. Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Civil Rights Division in December 2025.

By adding Subtitle 14A. Licensing – Active Service Members and Spouses to Article – State Government, this bill provides for the recognition of professional licenses and certificates issued by other jurisdictions to servicemembers or spouses of servicemembers who have relocated to Maryland pursuant to military orders, providing the licensee remains in good standing with the issuing authority and any other issuing authority that has issued a similar license to the licensee as well as meeting the standards of practice for the relevant profession. In addition, if the licensee is able to practice in multiple jurisdictions through an interstate compact, the provisions of that compact apply.

HB0420 is another positive step in the modernization of the Maryland Code, that began during the 2025 Session of the Maryland General Assembly, that will primarily benefit those currently serving in uniform. For the servicemember or the spouse of a servicemember, enacting this bill will make it easier to transfer their license when they relocate to Maryland. In the case of the

¹ See attached list of member organizations.

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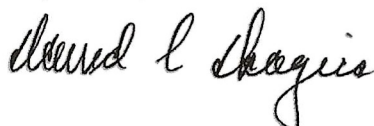
spouse, it will help in obtaining employment more quickly upon relocation. This aspect of the bill is key to battling persistent unemployment rates and the prevalence of underemployment, as “military spouse employment” continues to be the top issue of concern for active-duty spouses.² Per the December 22, 2025 DOJ Notification Letter, “Spousal unemployment is a leading cause of servicemembers leaving military service and is a significant readiness and retention issue.”³

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports HB0420** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Government, Labor, and Election 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. For further information, visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank Delegate Rogers for sponsoring this legislation and supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,



David L. Dragics
COL (Ret), U.S. Army
Legislative Director

² *Strengthening Military Families Amid Global Challenges, Comprehensive Report, 2024*, at <https://bluestarfam.org/research/mfls-survey-release-2025/#reports>

³ <https://www.justice.gov/servicemembers/media/1421601/dl?inline>, DOJ Civil Rights Division, Notification Letter, December 22, 2025, Subject: Update to Professional License Portability for Servicemembers and Their Spouses



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