



**Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families
Office of the Secretary**

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GOVERNOR**

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LT. GOVERNOR**

**ED ROTHSTEIN
ACTING SECRETARY**

**House Bill 420 - Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act
SUPPORT**

February 17, 2026

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

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, 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 House Bill 420 - Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act.

House Bill 420 updates Maryland law to reflect the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA), which provides legal, financial, employment, and occupational licensing protections for active duty service members and their spouses in order to reduce stress and minimize the burdens associated with being called to service. The bill also updates and streamlines expedited licensing for veterans and their spouses.

Military spouse unemployment still hovers around 20%, and more than 35% of military spouses are in careers that require state-based licensing or certification. Unfortunately, many still report difficulty transferring their licenses from one jurisdiction to another. Maryland is home to a significant military-connected population, including active-duty service members, veterans, and their families. The transient nature of military life often creates barriers to employment for military spouses and veterans in licensed professions.

HB 420 addresses these challenges by updating the law to ensure these individuals can continue their professional careers without unnecessary delays or redundancies. This legislation aligns with Maryland's commitment to a whole-of-government approach to serving veterans and their families, ensuring that no one is left behind. 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