

Secretary Ed Rothstein

House Bill 420 | Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act

Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 420, the Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act.

This bill is about stability.

When service members are called to duty, they should not have to worry about whether their legal and financial protections are up to date. House Bill 420 aligns Maryland law with the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, ensuring that active-duty service members and their families receive the protections they have earned.

But this bill is also about opportunity.

Military spouse unemployment continues to hover around twenty percent. More than one-third of military spouses work in professions that require state-based licensing. Each time a military family moves, delays in transferring a license can mean lost income and unnecessary stress.

HB 420 updates and streamlines expedited occupational licensing for veterans and military spouses. It removes barriers that do not serve the public and replaces them with processes that recognize valid credentials and lived experience.

Maryland is home to a significant military-connected population. The transient nature of military life creates challenges we cannot ignore. This legislation helps ensure that when military families come to Maryland, they can continue their careers without delay and contribute fully to our economy and our communities.

This bill does not create new bureaucracy. It modernizes protections and removes friction. It strengthens our commitment to a whole-of-government approach to serving veterans and their families.

On behalf of the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families, I respectfully ask for a favorable report on House Bill 420.

Thank you for your time and your continued support of Maryland's military-connected communities.