



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 13, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report** – HB0644 – Property Tax - Exemption for Dwellings of Surviving Spouses of Disabled Veterans - Application

Dear Chair Wilkins and distinguished members of the Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition¹ (MMC) I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **HB0644 – Property Tax - Exemption for Dwellings of Surviving Spouses of Disabled Veterans - Application**, sponsored by Delegate Dana Jones. During the 2022 and 2023 regular sessions Delegate Valderrama introduced legislation under HB0923 and HB0443. Both bills addressed Property Tax - Exemption for Dwellings of Surviving Spouses of Disabled Veterans – Application.

The significance in Delegate Jones' bill allows for an application submission, to the U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs, using a **rating decision** letter. Where Delegate Valderrama, bills only allowed for an application submission with a **Certification** of the disabled veteran's disability from the U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs. Speaking as a 100% disabled veteran, I only received a decision rating letter from the U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs. If providing a certification was my, or my surviving spouse's only option, we'd be forced to reengage the U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs which would require phone calls, meetings, and/or additional paperwork. All would add frustrations that could be easily avoided with the use of a decision rating letter.

HB0644 is a tangible way for Maryland to demonstrate the state's unyielding pursuit in tackling challenges that affect veterans and their families.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports HB0644** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Ways and Means Committee.

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The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups, representing over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

The MMC thanks Delegate Jones for sponsoring this legislation and supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland. To learn more about our organization, please visit our [website](#).

Respectfully,

David Lutzow

David Lutzow
Senior Master Sergeant (Ret), U.S. Air Force
Director

1 Attachment – Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition



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