

JOHNNY RAY SALLING
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Budget and Taxation Committee

Public Safety, Transportation,
and Environment Subcommittee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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House Ways and Means Committee
Chair Jheanelle K. Wilkins
Vice Chair Jessica Feldmark
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 980 - Property Tax - Credit for Dwelling House of Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses - Alterations.

As a veteran myself, I know the sacrifice our men and women in uniform make to protect our freedoms. When our service members come home, we have a duty to look out for them. That means making sure they can afford to stay in the communities that they fought to protect and call home.

As amended, Senate Bill 980 repeals the current income limitation and disability rating percentages used to establish eligibility for a local option property tax credit for disabled veterans and their surviving spouse. Instead, in the amended bill, the county or municipal corporation provide the eligibility criteria.

SB980 shifts authority over the disabled veteran's property tax credit to local governments. Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, SB 980 allows counties and municipalities to determine eligibility and structure the credit based on their own community needs and fiscal situations. This also provides flexibility to adapt the program over time and ensure it remains sustainable.

Most importantly, this bill preserves the intent of the credit, which is supporting disabled veterans and their surviving spouses, while making it more practical and effective at the local level.

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 980, and I respectfully ask for a favorable committee report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnny Ray Salling".

Senator Johnny Ray Salling