



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 24, 2026

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

Subject: Request for a **Favorable** Report – HB0842 – Property Tax Exemption - Property Acquired by Surviving Spouse of Service Member - Repeal of Time Limitation

Dear Chair Wilkins and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC), I write to recommend a **Favorable Report** by the Committee on – HB0842 – Property Tax Exemption - Property Acquired by Surviving Spouse of Service Member - Repeal of Time Limitation sponsored by Delegate Mike Griffith.

HB0842 would repeal the requirement that the surviving spouse of a service member who died in the line of duty must acquire a dwelling house within two years of the service member's death for qualify for a real property tax exemption. If enacted, this bill would allow a surviving spouse who does not remarry as much time as they might need to purchase a dwelling house and still qualify for the real estate tax exemption. The bill provides modest financial support and an opportunity for surviving spouses to rebuild their lives following the death in the line of duty of a servicemember.

The MMC **strongly supports** HB0842 – Property Tax Exemption - Property Acquired by Surviving Spouse of Service Member - Repeal of Time Limitation and asks the Ways and Means Committee for a **FAVORABLE** report.

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. For further information, visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>

We want to thank Senator Brooks for sponsoring this legislation and his continued support of the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

Jayson L. Spiegel
LTC, AUS (Ret)
President



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

