

MIKE GRIFFITH
Legislative District 35A
Cecil and Harford Counties

Ways and Means Committee

Subcommittees

Early Childhood and
Special Education

Revenues



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**H.B. 0857 - Income Tax - Subtraction Modification for Military Retirement Income -
Individuals Under the Age of 55**

Dear Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Delegate Mike Griffith, and I'm requesting a favorable report on H.B. 857: *Income Tax – Subtraction Modification for Military Retirement Income – Individuals Under the Age of 55*.

Currently, a military retiree under the age of 55 residing in Maryland may subtract up to \$12,500 in military retirement income from being taxed, and if 55 or older, may subtract up to \$20,000.

H.B. 857 is a simple and targeted bill that removes the age requirement so that all eligible military retirees may access the full \$20,000 subtraction modification, regardless of age.

Although any deduction is a good deduction, our veterans and their families have sacrificed much to protect and defend the Constitution, this great nation, and our great state. They have put their lives on the line, left their families behind to serve, and returned home to Maryland to build their lives again in civilian communities.

Many service members retire well before the age of 55, often after completing 20 or more years of service. Those veterans have earned the same recognition and support, and they should not be required to wait years before qualifying for the full benefit that Maryland already provides.

This simple change will allow more veterans and their families to keep more of their hard earned retirement income and reinvest that money back into Maryland, whether through supporting small businesses, purchasing goods, raising families, or saving for the future.

In these challenging economic times for the State, H.B. 857 strengthens Maryland's ability to retain and attract military retirees. It also ensures Maryland remains competitive with other states that have taken steps to reduce or eliminate taxes on uniformed retirement pay.

As a Marine and veteran, I am proud to support my brothers and sisters in uniform by sponsoring H.B. 857, and I respectfully request a favorable report.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mike Griffith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Delegate Mike Griffith
District 35A, Cecil and Harford Counties
Vice Chair, Maryland Veterans Caucus, Maryland General Assembly-House of Delegates