

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. 0761 -

Income Tax - Subtraction Modification for Military Retirement Income (Keep Our Heroes Home Act)

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Delegate Mike Griffith, and I respectfully request a favorable report on H.B. 761: *Income Tax – Subtraction Modification for Military Retirement Income*, also known as the *Keep Our Heroes Home Act*.

H.B. 761 is a straightforward bill that increases the subtraction modification under Maryland's income tax for military retirement income, regardless of age. Under current law, military retirees may subtract up to \$20,000 of military retirement income. H.B. 761 strengthens that benefit by increasing the subtraction to \$25,000 for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025, and then increasing it further to \$40,000 for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2026.

This bill is designed to keep more of our heroes here in Maryland and to ensure that military retirees can continue living, working, and investing in our communities after decades of honorable service. Maryland should not be a farm team for neighboring states.

Across the country, 38 states fully exempt military retirement income from taxation, making those states more attractive retirement destinations than Maryland. If we want to remain competitive and retain the men and women who served our nation, Maryland must continue taking steps to reduce the tax burden placed on military retirees.

Expanding this subtraction modification not only benefits veterans and their families, but it also benefits Maryland's economy and workforce. Military retirees bring valuable skills, leadership, and experience that strengthen our local businesses, public safety, and communities.

As a Marine and veteran, I am proud to support my brothers and sisters in uniform by sponsoring H.B. 761, and I respectfully request a favorable report.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "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