
ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

February 17, 2026

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

Subject: Request FAVORABLE Report - H.B. 0842 - Property Tax Exemption - Property Acquired by Surviving Spouse of Service Member - Repeal of Time Limitation

Dear Chair Wilkins and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Harford County, I respectfully urge a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 0842, *Property Tax Exemption – Property Acquired by Surviving Spouse of Service Member – Repeal of Time Limitation*, sponsored by Delegates Griffith, Allen, Arentz, Behler, Boaf, Buckel, Cardin, Ciliberti, Crutchfield, Hartman, Hornberger, Howard, A. Johnson, D. Jones, McComas, Miller, T. Morgan, Odom, Pruski, Reilly, Rogers, Rose, Sample-Hughes, Schmidt, Stinnett, and Tomlinson. This bill repeals the current requirement that an unremarried surviving spouse acquire a dwelling within two years of a service member’s line-of-duty death to qualify for a real property tax exemption.

This legislation appropriately recognizes the extraordinary sacrifices made by unremarried surviving spouses of service members killed in the line of duty. The existing time limitation imposes an unreasonable burden on families during a period marked by profound grief and the complex legal, financial, and caregiving responsibilities that follow such a loss.

Our nation’s Gold Star spouses have endured immeasurable sacrifice while continuing to support their families and communities. This bill affirms our collective responsibility to stand with them during a time of profound transition and loss, and to honor the service and sacrifice of their loved ones.

I commend the sponsors for advancing this meaningful legislation and extend my sincere gratitude to the Gold Star families whose strength and resilience inspire us all.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Cassilly

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