



Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families  
Office of the Secretary

WES MOORE  
GOVERNOR  
ARUNA MILLER  
LT. GOVERNOR  
ED ROTHSTEIN  
SECRETARY

**House Bill 1390 - Public Schools - Veterans' Day - Excused Student Absence  
SUPPORT**

March 12, 2026

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

Dear Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) is committed to leading veterans and their families through life's transitions, making Maryland the best state for the military-connected communities. We proudly support House Bill 1390, which requires public schools to excuse any student's absence from school for observance of Veterans' Day.

Under current Maryland law, Veterans' Day is recognized as a day for which public schools must devote part of at least one day to "appropriate exercises". However, it is not currently listed among the designated public school holidays that result in a mandatory school closure. House Bill 1390 bridges this gap by ensuring that any student who wishes to observe this day of national significance outside of the classroom—whether by attending community ceremonies, participating in parades, or spending time with veteran family members—can do so without academic penalty.

DVMF believes this bill honors our veterans by:

- **Promoting Civic Engagement:** Allowing students to participate in community-led Veterans' Day observances fosters a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by those in the armed forces.
- **Supporting Military Families:** Veterans' Day is a vital time for military families to connect and honor their shared history. This bill ensures students in these families can participate in traditions together.

- **Consistency in Education:** By mandating an excused absence, the State provides a uniform standard for all Maryland public school students to honor those who have served.

By passing HB 1390, Maryland demonstrates its commitment to acknowledging and honoring the sacrifices made by veterans in service to our nation. This bill has no fiscal impact.

Thank you for your time and I ask the committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward C. Rothstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "E".

Ed Rothstein  
Secretary