



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

29 March 2019 - Legislative UPDATE

CURRENTLY SERVING & TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS. Support interstate reciprocity of licensing and certification requirements in all occupations for uniformed service spouses, and those transitioning from the uniformed services to the civilian sector. **[SB 852 – SEN Griffith, Veterans & Military Service Members and Spouses – Occupational Licenses. Hearing 21 Feb]**

MILITARY RETIRED VETERANS. Work towards full exemption of Uniformed Services retirement income from Maryland income tax. **SB 294 (SEN Sallings) – provides immediate total tax subtraction of military retired pay; SB 875 (Gov Hogan) provides a two-year phase in of income tax subtraction of military retired pay. SB 413 (Sen Peters) would raise the current income tax subtraction from \$15K to \$20K.** HB 1322 – DEL Rogers – would accomplish same purpose as SB 875 over a three year, vice two-year period. Bill stuck in Rules Committee. HB 718 – Speaker / Administration – is the companion to SB 875. HB 1199 – DEL Chang is companion to SB 413. **NONE OF THESE BILLS ARE EXPECTED TO CLEAR GEN. ASSEMBLY BY 8 APR.**

SURVIVING SPOUSES. Insure a process exists so that Surviving Spouses and surviving family members can become aware of and access all Maryland benefits due to them as a result of their loss. **HB 81 – DEL Wilkins – provides technical AMDT to Property Tax Credit for Surviving Spouses that passed last session. EXPECTED TO PASS. HB 1093 (DEL Young) would provide existing income tax subtraction to military retired pay to "death benefits". Bot bills LIKELY to pass.**

SECOND MARYLAND VETERANS HOME. Advocate for establishment of a second State Veterans Home to be operated by the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, in a different geographical location from Charlotte Hall Home. MD Budget includes 'set aside' funding but depends on a MD County donating approximately 20-25 acres of land. Land donation not expected by 8 April.

FAMILY MEMBERS. Educate family members of elderly, medically fragile veterans to assist them in application for health care benefits and nursing home placement. *[Related to Suicide Prevention Outreach issue, below]*

VETERANS HEALTH – SUICIDE PREVENTION OUTREACH. Authorize the Maryland Department of Health to develop a comprehensive action plan for veteran suicide prevention, to include increased access to and availability of professional veteran health services to prevent veteran suicide. **SB 521-SEN Smith – Veteran Suicide Prevention – Comprehensive Action Plan. LIKELY to pass.**

NATIONAL GUARD / RESERVES. Encourage increased participation by Maryland employers and residents in the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program. Maryland can visibly demonstrate its support for the Guard and Reserve by ensuring the Maryland ESGR Committee is fully staffed with active participants, so that the vital mission of the ESGR is fulfilled within the State.