



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
Department of Maryland  
Legislative Commission

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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0059**  
**State lottery – Instant Ticket Lottery Machines – Fraternal Organizations**  
**(“Slots” for Homeless Veterans Act)**

Good afternoon distinguished members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. I am Patrick J. Guibao, Legislative Chair for The American Legion Department of Maryland and I'm here today to support Senate Bill 59.

On any given night there are an estimated 574 veterans—men and women who risked their lives to insure our safety-- who must either live on the streets or in their cars or seek public shelter throughout Maryland. They are, for one reason or another, homeless.

Senate Bill 59 would assist in alleviating the plight of homeless veterans by placing monies into a special fund to be used for aiding veterans and their families who exist in this deplorable condition.

Further, a majority of the 136 American Legion Posts in our state already contain the lottery ticket machines and successful passage of this measure would allow their members to fulfill their pledge to one of the four pillars that serve as the foundation for a veteran service organization now in its second century: aiding veterans and their families during time of crises.

In previous legislative sessions The American Legion has endorsed similar proposals and we join other veteran service organizations in asking for your favorable support of Senate Bill 59. Thank you.