



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Maryland
Legislative Commission

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STATEMENT IN SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 532
TASK FORCE to STUDY the VETERAN-OWNED
SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

The American Legion representing over 48,000 active duty personnel, veterans who have served in wars and conflicts since 1917 and their families—all Maryland residents—firmly believe the creation of a Task Force to analyze the Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise Program outlined in Senate Bill 532 is a valuable measure eventually aiding those who have a dream to become an independent, successful entrepreneur.

In our opinion the veteran is grossly overlooked by several facets of commerce especially financial resources to make the dream a reality. While it is recognized that it is the individual's responsibility to garner and network with lending sources, investors etc., a helping hand would be a major benefit.

This can be accomplished by governmental guidance. SB 532 with a membership dedicated to arriving at a fair and productive outcome can achieve the needed steps to planning and resources of these necessary steps to individual achievement.

One goal The American Legion feels is essential to be on the Task Force's agenda is adding veteran-owned businesses to the **Governor Small, Minority and Women Business Affairs**. This integration will contribute significantly to the educational necessity for a sole business owner.

Additionally, we would like to see the threshold for State mandated contracts be reviewed with the hope of increasing the present one percent and be on parity with the Federal Guidelines on this issue with the goal being gradually raised to five percent (05%).

In closing we believe SB 532 can be an important helping hand for present and future veteran entrepreneurs and an excellent asset to our State's diverse, robust economy and The American Legion respectfully requests a favorable report on this much needed measure.

Yours, respectfully

Patrick Guibao

Patrick J. Guibao
Chair
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