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**HB 809 Property Tax Exemption - Disabled Veteran, Active Duty, and Surviving Spouse
Application Process
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
SUPPORT
March 29, 2022**

Good Afternoon Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee. I am Larry Walton, Veteran, Member of AARP, and resident of Ocean Pines, Maryland. AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the state, encompassing over 850,000 members. **AARP MD overwhelmingly supports HB809 Property Tax Exemption – Disabled Veteran, Active Duty, and Surviving Spouse – Application Process.** We thank Delegates Kipke, Adams, Brooks, Carey, Chisholm, Crosby, M. Fisher, Ghrist, Hartman, Howard, Jackson, Mautz, Pippy, Rogers, Szeliga, Thiam, Wilson, and P. Young for sponsoring this bill.

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities, and protection from financial abuse.

HB 809 would authorize a disabled active duty service member, a disabled Veteran, or a surviving spouse of an individual who died in the line of duty to submit an application for a property tax exemption for a dwelling house the individual intends to purchase prior to that purchase. HB809 would require the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to accept and process the application, and to notify the applicant of approval or denial including the amount of the property tax exemption. Once approval is granted, the exemption will go into effect once the home is purchased without need for further application from the individual.

AARP Maryland supports this initiative as it:

- Honors the Service of our military disabled active service members and disabled Veterans through affording a property tax exemption;
- Acknowledges their sacrifice by noting that their income represents a small return given that it is earned through the selfless investment of decades of often hazardous service; and
- Makes Maryland a more attractive retirement option for those in past or present active military duty.

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AARP Maryland believes that supporting House Bill 809 is a solid economic move for all Marylanders, not just for our deserving active duty disabled service members, disabled Veterans and their surviving spouses. We believe that their decades of challenging service devoted to protecting our freedoms and ensuring our safety merit this property tax exemption.

AARP believes we must honor the service and acknowledge the sacrifice of our disabled service members and Veterans. House Bill 809 does so, by providing greater economic viability for a disabled Veteran and the Veterans spouse by ensuring their ability to afford and remain in their home.

While we realize that our legislature hears many tax-related proposals and must thoroughly consider the impact of their decisions, **we respectfully request that you vote favorably on HB809** – to demonstrate Maryland’s high esteem and support for those who have become disabled in their honorable service to our country.

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Tammy Bresnahan, Associate State Director of Advocacy at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.