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SB 901 Property Tax - Elderly Individuals and Veterans Tax Credit - Amount and Duration
FAVORABLE
Senate Budget and Taxation
March 10, 2022

Good Afternoon Chair Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. I am Tammy Bresnahan director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the state, encompassing over 850,000 members and well over 100,000 veterans. AARP MD overwhelmingly supports **SB 901 Property Tax - Elderly Individuals and Veterans Tax Credit - Amount and Duration**. We thank Senator Hershey for sponsoring this important legislation.

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.

SB 901 authorizes the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county or municipal corporation to determine the amount and duration of a tax credit against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on the dwelling of elderly individuals and veterans.

Veterans have served our country. AARP MD supports legislation that allows local jurisdictions to offer a property tax credit to our hometown heroes. Disabled veterans, their older spouses, and older Marylanders who are retired are far less likely to be able to gain and maintain employment and far more likely to live on a fixed income.

The mainstay of local taxation is the tax on real estate, known as the property tax. It is used to fund an array of state and local services, most notably public schools. Policymakers face challenges with the tax's structure and administration. This includes its burden on households with low income or those on fixed incomes. While property taxes mainly exist at the local level, states play an important role in creating property tax relief programs.

AARP believes we must honor the service and acknowledge the sacrifice of our veterans. Senate Bill 901 does so. Additionally, SB 901 will allow retired or disabled veterans, their spouses and older Marylanders who live on fixed incomes remain in their lifelong homes to age in place. SB

901 allows a local jurisdiction to determine the amount and duration of a property tax credit which is the right thing to do.

We respectfully request a favorable report for SB 901. 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.