



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

January 19, 2023

SB 134

Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans – Established

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference (“Conference”) represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch) dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

Senate Bill 134 requires the state, counties, and municipalities to grant a property tax credit for the property tax imposed on the dwelling house of a disabled veteran. The amount of the property tax credit is equal to the service-connected disability rating of the disabled veteran. The bill specifies application criteria that a disabled veteran must follow when applying for the property tax credit with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT).

In a Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities it is stated *“Defense of the right to life, then, implies the defense of other rights that enable the disabled individual to achieve the fullest measure of personal development of which he or she is capable. These include the right to equal opportunity in education, in employment, in housing, as well as the right to free access to public accommodations, facilities, and services.”*

Senate Bill 134 seeks to address the respect for the dignity and physical integrity of the human person; working to protect and help the veterans and their families who have bravely fought and served our state and country. Veterans experiencing a service-related disability are among the most marginalized and underserved in our society. The Catholic Church through its parishes, charities, and other ministries reaches out pastorally to those struggling with physical or mental disabilities.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 134.