



Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Tony D. Cardwell
President

Dale E. Bogart, Jr.
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January 10, 2025

The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Chairman, House Economic Matters Committee
231 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Brian M. Crosby
Vice-Chairman House Economic Matters Committee
231 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Wilson and Vice-Chairman Crosby:

On behalf of The Teamsters Rail Conference, the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWED-IBT), and our Veteran members in Maryland, I write today to **oppose Maryland HB 267.**

The BMWED-IBT is proud to offer and encourage private expert support to our Veteran members. Our members are armed with all the information available to them and appreciate the ability to make the best choice for them and their families. We have been working closely with Veterans Guardian to educate our members on the full range of options available free of charge and for a fee. We are proud to ensure that our Maryland Veteran members and brothers and sisters nationwide are well-informed and choose the best options for them.

The Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees strongly supports Delegate Allen's commitment to protecting our Veterans and actually believes that the bill does not go far enough in some areas, as it is absent necessary guardrails which include disclosure requirements and a fee cap. However, and most unfortunate, House Bill 267 as currently written, prohibits the services of honorable for-profit companies like Veterans Guardian, from serving Veterans.

As a Veteran myself and the Director of Government Affairs for the BMWED-IBT, I used Veterans Guardian to help me achieve an increase in my rating. Unfortunately, years of navigating the complicated Veterans Affairs process frustrated me. I tried the free services offered by Veteran Service Organizations, but while well-intentioned, they failed to meet my needs. Free doesn't always mean better, and I have the choice to decide who helps me with my claim.

Maryland HB 267 might be well-intentioned, but this issue has nuances and complications that require far more understanding.

Maryland Veterans deserve a choice, and the BMWED members in Maryland deserve the option to use companies like Veterans Guardian.

This bill is trying to accomplish a noble effort. Unfortunately, it takes away important options for the hard-working, dedicated brothers and sisters of the BMWED-IBT. I strongly urge you to vote against Maryland HB 267.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Jones
Director of Government Affairs