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DVMF 2026 Legislative Session Highlights

Taxation and Financial Relief

HB1611 – Property Tax - Credit for Dwelling House of Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses - Income Eligibility

- **Synopsis:** Repeals the \$100,000 state income limit on local property tax credits, allowing local caps up to \$150,000 (single) and \$300,000 (joint).
- **Benefit:** Gives local governments the flexibility to raise income thresholds, ensuring middle-income disabled veterans are not priced out of high-cost suburban areas.

HB0842 – Property Tax Credit: Surviving Spouse of Military Service Member

- **Synopsis:** Authorizes county and municipal governments to grant a property tax credit to the surviving spouse of a military service member who does not qualify for existing 100% exemptions.
- **Benefit:** Offers essential financial stability to grieving spouses, ensuring they can remain in their homes by reducing their local tax burden.

SB0194 – Income and Property Tax Incentives - Members and Veterans of the Space Force - Application

- **Synopsis:** Formally extends all state military income tax exemptions, credits, and property tax incentives to members and veterans of the U.S. Space Force.
- **Benefit:** Resolves legal ambiguities, ensuring Space Force guardians receive equivalent tax subtractions and retirement credits to support technical workforce retention.

HB0789 (SB0491) – Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System - Military Service Credit Eligibility - Helicopter Pilots

- **Synopsis:** Authorizes LEOPS members employed as helicopter pilots in state law enforcement aviation units to receive LEOPS credit for military flight service.
- **Benefit:** Improves retirement benefit valuations for transitioning military aviators, directly supporting recruitment for critical state medevac and public safety flight units.

SB0161 – Natural Resources - State Park Entry Fee - Exemptions

- **Synopsis:** Expands the Natural Resources State Park entry fee waiver program to cover all veterans, active-duty service members, and their immediate family members.
 - **Benefit:** Eliminates cost barriers to state parks, promoting outdoor recreation, therapeutic wellness, and healthy transitions for military-connected families.
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Education

SB0263 (HB0102) – Education - Dependent Children of Active Service Members - Advance Enrollment Procedures

- **Synopsis:** Requires local school systems to allow the dependent children of active service members to enroll in public schools remotely before physically arriving in the county.
- **Benefit:** Eases school transitions during PCS moves by preventing placement delays in special education or advanced courses, keeping students on track academically.

SB0709 (HB0623) – Education - Purple Star Schools Program and Purple Star Colleges Program

- **Synopsis:** Codifies the Purple Star program within MSDE and MHEC to designate military-friendly K-12 schools and public colleges.
- **Benefit:** Connects military-connected students with trained transition coordinators, peer-support networks, and counselors educated on deployment-related family stress.

SB7 (HB0720) – Higher Education - Douglas J.J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship - Repeal of Termination Date

- **Synopsis:** Repeals the sunset provision of the Douglas J. J. Peters Scholarship, making financial assistance for post-9/11 veterans permanent.
- **Benefit:** Provides scholarship funds to cover the cost of tuition and room & board for eligible veterans, service members, and their dependents.

HB0003 (SB0212) – Higher Education - Student Financial Assistance - Dependents of State or Local Public Safety Employees (Maryland Fallen Heroes Tuition Benefits Act)

- **Synopsis:** Restructures and updates the Edward T. and Mary A. Conry Memorial Scholarship Program and the Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program to establish and implement a funding formula and prioritize renewal applications.
- **Benefit:** Exempts a spouse or financially dependent child of a State or local public safety employee who dies while on duty from paying out-of-state or out-of-county tuition at a public institution of higher education.

Professional License Portability

SB0242 (HB0420) – Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act

- **Synopsis:** Authorizes active-duty service members and their spouses to practice their professions in Maryland using a valid out-of-state license while in the state on military orders.
- **Benefit:** Eliminates employment delays ("license lag") for military families relocating to Maryland, supporting career continuity for spouses and increasing the local workforce in critical fields like education and mental health.

SB0243 (HB0721) – Uniformed Services Spouses Act

- **Synopsis:** Provides for priority registration and other support services at higher education institutions for the spouses of uniformed service members.
- **Benefit:** Increases educational attainment and career prospects for military spouses by allowing them to secure necessary classes earlier in the registration cycle.

SB0333 (HB0619) – Interstate Podiatric Medical Licensure Compact

- **Synopsis:** Enters Maryland into the Interstate Podiatric Medical Licensure Compact.
- **Benefit:** Eliminates bureaucratic hurdles for people relocating to the state by allowing the portability of a podiatric medical license from a participating compact state.

SB0238 (HB0340) – School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

- **Synopsis:** Enters Maryland into the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact.
- **Benefit:** Eliminates bureaucratic hurdles for people relocating to the state by allowing the portability of a school psychologist license from a participating compact state.

Health and Community Inclusion

SB0192 (HB0270) – Military Family Inclusion Act

- **Synopsis:** Mandates the inclusion of a family caregiver of a service-disabled veteran on the Maryland Commission on Caregiving and ensures military-connected representation on the Maryland Veterans Commission and the Maryland Youth Advisory Council.
- **Benefit:** Embeds the lived experiences of military families and caregivers of disabled veterans directly into state governance, ensuring public policies are informed by practical realities.

SB0113 (HB0278) – Longevity Ready Maryland Act

- **Synopsis:** Codifies the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan and adds a veteran to the Commission on Aging membership.
- **Benefit:** Improves the state infrastructure for aging residents and ensures that the voices and

issues of aging veterans are included during state-level policy development.

SB0215 – Veterans and Uniformed Services - Maryland Veterans Trust Fund and Application of Laws

- **Synopsis:** Directs specialty plate fees for combat and high-level non-combat medals to the Veterans Trust Fund, while extending trout stamp exemptions and tenant protections.
- **Benefit:** Bolsters the financial capacity of the Veterans Trust Fund to provide emergency aid, while extending consumer and housing protections to all branches of the uniformed services.

SB0150 – Notation of Veteran Status– Public Profiles

- **Synopsis:** Authorizes state occupational licensing boards to display an opt-in veteran status notation on a licensee’s public verification profile.
- **Benefit:** Helps veteran-owned professionals leverage their military backgrounds in the civilian marketplace, aiding consumers in identifying and hiring veterans.