



# MMC's 2026 Legislative Goals

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## Protect Maryland's Veterans from Claim Predators



A "VA Claim Predator" refers to individuals or companies that exploit veterans by charging excessive fees for assistance with filing or appealing Veterans Affairs (VA) disability claims. These entities often operate without proper accreditation and may mislead veterans into signing contracts that take a significant portion of their benefits.

**The MMC urges the MGA to strictly regulate those companies who charge veterans for benefit claims and benefits claims appeals.**

## Expedite Professional Licensure and Certification for Spouses



Spouses of uniformed services members often face significant challenges when relocating due to their partner's military assignments. One major obstacle is the delay in obtaining professional licensure or certification required to continue employment in a new state. These delays can result in lost income and career progression, further adding to the stress of frequent moves.

**The MMC urges the MGA to enhance portability of six interstate licensure compacts, prioritized for Maryland by the Department of Defense and listed on the DSO website.**

## Eliminate the age restriction and tax on Uniformed Services Retirement Income



Maryland does not fully eliminate state income tax on uniformed services retired pay, but it does offer partial exemptions based on age. Retirees under age 55 can exclude up to \$12,500 of their uniformed services retirement income from Maryland state taxes. Retirees aged 55 and older can exclude up to \$20,000 of their Uniformed services retirement income.

**The MMC urges the MGA to remove the 55-year age limit for certain retirement benefits. Due to budget constraints, MMC suggests phasing out the military retirement tax over three years, eliminating the age restriction, and raising the exemption to \$40,000, in line with Virginia's policy.**

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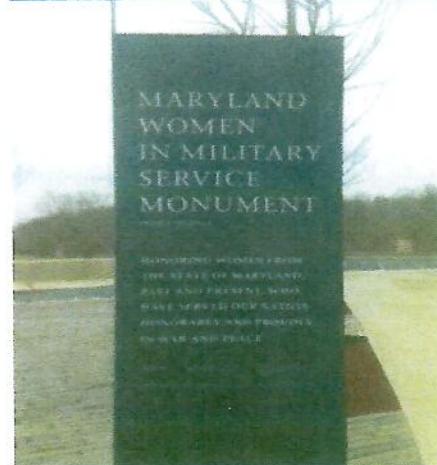
## Expand eligibility of Maryland Veterans Trust Fund to include members of the Reserve



The MMC regards the inclusion of Maryland National Guard members and their families last year (SB0246/HB0228), without similarly providing for Reserve members, as an inequitable action.

**The MMC recommends the MGA broaden Maryland Veterans Trust Fund eligibility to all state residents in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Ready Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service, and their families.**

## Support the establishment of a Women Veterans Memorial



Despite the efforts of four separate Commissions, all of which recommended the same location for a women veterans memorial, there remains only one such memorial in the state. The sole recognition for Women Veterans is the Women in Military Service memorial, which is situated in the rest area along I-95 between Washington and Baltimore. Notably, this memorial is not listed on any official registers of State-managed memorials, further limiting its visibility and official recognition.

**The MMC supports creating a *REAL* Maryland Women Veterans' Memorial at Newburg, Maryland, with a planned construction timeline and a plan for funding that considers all possible public and private sources, including establishing a 501(c)(3) corporation to raise funds from foundations, corporations and individuals.**