



Senate Bill 980

Property Tax - Credit for Dwelling House of Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses - Alterations

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

WITH AMENDMENTS

Date: March 11, 2026

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 980 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill alters the income limitation and disability rating percentages for a local-option property tax credit for disabled veterans and surviving spouses.

MACo requests amendments to ensure that counties retain full authority to define and apply eligibility standards under local law and to avoid unintended fiscal impacts on jurisdictions that have structured this credit under current law.

Under current law, local governments may grant this credit by local law and retain authority over the amount, duration, and structure of the benefit. This local-option framework allows each jurisdiction to align the credit with its fiscal capacity and community priorities.

By altering the income limitation and disability rating thresholds used to determine eligibility, the bill broadens eligibility in jurisdictions that adopted the credit. That expansion increases the number of qualifying properties and creates a greater fiscal impact on counties that have structured this credit under current law.

As such, MACo requests amendments to ensure changes to these eligibility standards do not automatically alter locally adopted programs and that counties retain full authority to determine how this credit operates within their existing local frameworks.

Accordingly, MACo respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on SB 980.