

November 5, 2007

***By Electronic Mail Only***

Re: AO-07-80

You inquired whether there are ethics law restrictions on your participation in certain legislation pending before the county council. A bill that you recently introduced would give a hiring preference in county employment to disabled veterans or decorated veterans of the current Iraq or Afghanistan conflicts. You are a veteran, but would not qualify for the preference under this bill. An amendment to the bill has or will be introduced that would broaden the preference to all veterans but limit its scope to applicants to the police and fire departments. Theoretically, as a veteran, you would qualify for this preference if you were to apply for a job with the police or fire departments.

The ethics commission advises that you may participate in the legislation and the proposed amendment. The sections of the ethics law that deal with restrictions on participation in legislative actions by county council members are not applicable in this situation. You are not qualified for a preference under the bill you introduced and you do not have a current interest in the outcome of the amendment, since you are not currently seeking county employment. The possibility that you would seek employment with either the police or fire departments in the future is so speculative as to be irrelevant to this inquiry.

For this reason, the ethics commission advises that you may participate in this bill and in the consideration of the proposed amendment to this bill.

The Anne Arundel County Ethics Commission

/s/

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Betsy K. Dawson, Executive Director