

May 27, 2022

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Madam Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed House Bill 172 – *Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues*.

By creating a subtraction modification against the State income tax for an individual who pays union dues, House Bill 172 needlessly punishes those who choose not to join a labor union.

This year, our administration negotiated historic agreements with the two largest state employee unions that have and will lead to significant salary increases and additional benefits for the approximately 23,000 members of the Maryland Professional Employees Council Local 6197 (MPEC) and AFSCME Maryland Council 3. Agreements were also reached with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), State Law Enforcement Officers Labor Alliance (SLEOLA), BWI Airport Firefighters Local 142, and American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Healthcare leading to significant salary increases for law enforcement officers, firefighters, nurses, and other front line healthcare workers. In addition, I provided a pay increase and bonus to non-represented employees to promote equity among all of the hardworking employees of the state, whether represented or not.

This mandate removes the autonomy of counties to determine which tools best serve their local needs and community priorities. I cannot in good faith allow House Bill 172 to go into effect and promote such an unfair advantage to unions and activists. By using the tax code to confer political power to unions, it creates a political advantage—not only to the unions but also to the political parties and candidates supported by them.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 172.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor