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February 19, 2020

HB 722 – Labor and Employment – Occupational Safety and Health – Heat Stress Standards

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

**Economic Matters Committee** 

**FAVORABLE** 

Brian G. Malloy, International Vice President, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Fourth District

Dear Chair Davis, Vice Chair Dumais, and members of the Economic Matters Committee,

On behalf of the more than 5,700 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Maryland, I am seeking your support for House Bill 722. This important bill, currently in session at the Maryland legislature, seeks to mandate the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Division of Labor and Industry to develop a standard protecting workers from heat stress and its subsequent health hazards.

Each year, thousands of IBEW members working in the construction, utility, transportation, telecommunications, broadcasting, and manufacturing industries, and other Maryland workers in the trades, are vulnerable to the dangers of heat exposure. Notable hazards to health include cramps, exhaustion, stroke, and even death. There are currently no federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration protections in place to protect workers from these hazards.

The proposed legislation will protect workers from dangerous heat exposure and other preventable heat-related health issues. The safety and health of all Maryland workers is of the utmost importance and I respectfully urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Brian G. Malloy

International Vice President

IBEW Fourth District