



MTBMA

MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION BUILDERS
AND MATERIALS ASSOCIATION

February 25, 2020

Delegate Dereck Davis, Chairman
Economic Matters Committee
231 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

OPPOSE

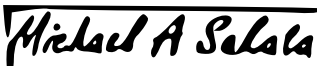
Re: **HOUSE BILL 722 – OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH – HEAT
STRESS STANDARDS**

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials.

HB 722 would require employers to develop, implement, and maintain heat-related illness prevention plans for employees, which includes providing potable water with a temperature of less than 59 degrees, limiting the length of time an employee is exposed to heat, and acclimatizing employees to areas where exposure to heat is present. While we respect the sponsor’s intent with this legislation, we feel it is cumbersome and impossible to administer. For instance, ensuring that the temperature of the water is below a certain degree would be costly and unnecessary. There is no evidence to show that cold water is essential for treating heat concerns. We would also like to stress that employee safety is of the utmost concern to us and our members, and we place high value on ensuring that. We already create and utilize safety guides for heat related stress and implement many of the measures referenced in the bill into our daily work day. Moreover, OSHA requires employers to protect workers from recognized serious hazards in the workplace, including heat-related hazards.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 722.

Thank you,



Michael Sakata
President and CEO

Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association