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Patrick Moran – President

**HB 949 - State Employees - Cancer Screening Leave
Appropriations Committee
February 28, 2024**

FAVORABLE

AFSCME Council 3 supports HB 949. Effective July 1, this bill allows state employees to utilize up to 4 hours of cancer screening leave in any 12-month period for cancer screening after obtaining approval. We admire the intent of the bill which is to ensure that all state employees have access to leave to get screened for cancer, even if their earned leave is all exhausted or they are new employees. We represent municipal employees in the City of Baltimore who have a similar program, and this has worked well.

Early detection is one of the best ways to prevent fatalities from cancer and this good benefit to extend to employees. At a time when public employers are competing for workers, these additional benefits go a long way. We hope to work with the Department of Budget and Management this year and other employers we negotiate with to put a cancer screening leave program in place.

HB 949 is a good bill and we urge a favorable report.