



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Russell J. Strickland | Secretary

FAVORABLE - HB580
Time To Serve Act of 2024
Hearing Date: 13 FEB 2024
Maryland Department of Emergency Management

Chairman Ben Barnes
Appropriation Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chairman Barnes,

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes **in support of HB580 - Time to Serve Act of 2024**. The bill increases the number of paid leave days for uniformed service training or duty from 15 to 30, and increases disaster service leave for State employees in the Executive Branch from 15 to 30 days.

The provisions of this bill recognize and support State employee interest in serving their communities and areas affected by disasters. Increasing uniformed service leave for training or duty requirements will ensure that our employees don't have to choose between serving their country and much-deserved time off. Time off is critical for all State employees, and especially those in fields like emergency management when no-notice incidents requiring response make days long and weekends short.

Disaster service leave is another important aspect of State employee leave options. When disasters strike, organizations which rely on volunteers are a critical part of response and recovery. Through MDEM's Whole Community program, we engage directly with these organizations and understand their impact. It is fitting that our State government support the desire of employees to continue their public service by using disaster service leave when approved. **In conclusion, MDEM urges a favorable report of HB580 - Time to Serve Act of 2024.**

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison: anna.sierra1@maryland.gov.