

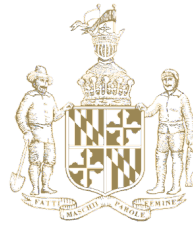
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Ways and Means Committee

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Education

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB949: State Employees - Cancer Screening Leave
House Appropriations Committee
Wednesday, February 28, 2024 1:00PM

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

It is estimated [39.5% of people will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lifetimes](#).¹ Routine screenings are vital to early detection, which is often life saving. Currently, if a routine cancer screening appointment falls during the workweek, State employees must use their allotted leave time. As a result, employees must choose between setting time aside for essential routine screenings and other traditional uses of leave time, such as vacation or sick days. This creates a disincentive from scheduling and attending potentially life-saving routine cancer screenings.

HB949 would ensure that State Employees have four hours of Cancer Screening Leave in any 12-month period. With this, employees may attend routine cancer screenings without compromising their ability to take sick leave or vacation leave. The Cancer Screening Leave may be utilized only after approval from the employee's appointing authority. Additionally, under HB949, the Secretary would adopt regulations that establish conditions and procedures for requesting and approving Cancer Screening Leave.

An early detection of cancer can save a life. It is imperative that State Employees do not feel that they must choose between standard leave time and their ability to incorporate routine preventative healthcare.

I urge the committee to give a favorable report on HB949.

¹ [Cancer Statistics - NCI](#) National Cancer Institute, National Institute of Health (2020)