



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Balto. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer

Gerald W. Jackson

**HB 144 - Public Employee Relations Act – Alterations
House Appropriations Committee
January 25, 2023**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 144 as currently written. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

Last year's Public Employee Relations Act consolidated the state's three different labor boards into a single entity known as the Public Employee Relations Board. HB 144 makes minor alterations to the board's processes, including allowing for deputy directors to have more flexible portfolios of responsibilities, adding a definition for interested employee organizations, and requiring notice be sent to exclusive representatives when employers require employees to attend events with check-ins.

These narrow changes allow for adaptations by the new Public Employee Relations Board while preserving the original intent of the law. Maryland followed the precedent established by Pennsylvania, Washington, Michigan, California, Ohio, New York, and New Jersey that all had a single state public sector labor relations board.

We urge a favorable report on HB 144 as currently written.