



190 W. Ostend St., #101
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 410-547-1515
Email: info@afscmemd.org

Patrick Moran – President

HB 747- Products That Contain Mercury - Fluorescent Lamps - Prohibition

POSITION: FAVORABLE

AFSCME Council 3 supports HB 747. The fight for safer workplaces and protecting the lives and health of our members is a top priority. This legislation would protect public employees and all Marylanders from mercury exposure.

When fluorescent bulbs break, they release mercury vapor into the air, creating a health hazard to those nearby. Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that the World Health Organization counts as among the top 10 most dangerous chemicals impacting public health. Weakened memory, insomnia, dizziness, and tremors, among other symptoms, have been observed in workers with higher mercury exposures.

Our members, working for the state as well as our public colleges and universities particularly maintenance, custodial workers, and those in the waste/recycling stream, are among those who run the risk of being exposed to mercury pollution when a fluorescent bulb breaks.

By phasing out fluorescent lighting, Maryland can create safer working environments for workers who otherwise need to handle or be around fluorescents.

We thank you and urge a favorable report.