



Secular Maryland

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HB 469 - FAV

Employment Discrimination - Exceptions - Religious Activities of Religious Employers

Dear Chair C. T. Wilson, Vice-Chair Brian M. Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

This bill proposes applying employment nondiscrimination law to religious organizations when the work responsibilities are secular. The exemption from employment nondiscrimination law currently extends excessively and unjustifiably to all employees of religious organizations. Secular Maryland resents this unconditional and extraordinary exemption from employment nondiscrimination law that is granted to all religious organizations, many of which are tax exempt. Religious organizations that insist they must engage in otherwise illegal employment discrimination with no restrictions should be disqualified from the tax exemption on donations. Current law is unfair to Maryland citizens who are able and willing to perform the work properly and at the same time are unwilling, or are flat out unable, to comply with edicts derived from the employer's religious beliefs that have no work performance relevance. We respectfully request a favorable vote on this bill.

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