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**HB 1138 - State Facilities – Procedures for Changes and Closures –  
Definition and Reporting  
Health and Government Operation  
March 8, 2024**

**Favorable**

AFSCME Council 3 supports HB 1138. Specifying that requirements for purchasing, leasing, changing the use of, or closing State facilities apply to facilities owned, leased, or operated for the purpose of providing benefits to clients; and requiring the Department of Human Services, on or before August 1, 2024, to submit a report on any State facility owned, leased, or operated by the Department for the purpose of providing benefits to clients that was closed on or after January 1, 2023, to certain committees of the General Assembly.

AFSCME supported HB 395/SB223, a similar bill introduced by Delegate White that passed the general assembly last session. State facilities are often placed in communities for specific purposes. Either because a need exists there for the services provided in the facility, or to be a jobs generator in a region that could use more jobs. Whether it be a Correctional Facility, State Hospital, Juvenile Facility, Social Services office, Motor Vehicle Administration branch, or closing DHS Family Investment office, many stakeholders are impacted when decisions are made to close or change a state facility. The employees are impacted, the Marylanders relying on services in these facilities are impacted, and the communities that surround these facilities are impacted.

HB 1138 is a good government bill that provides more transparency and opportunity for stakeholders to provide input when decisions about changing or closing state facilities are made. It also ensures that there is a plan for the employees and the Marylanders who require services at these facilities before the closure or change happens. Finally, HB 1138 ensures that there is also a plan for the facility itself once it is closed.

For all these reasons, we urge the committee to provide a favorable report on HB 1138

