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Patrick Moran – President

**SB 48 – Department of General Services – Identification Cards –
Veteran Status Notation
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
January 30, 2025**

Position: FAVORABLE

AFSCME Council 3 represents 45,000 state, county, and municipal employees and we are pleased to support Senate Bill 48. This legislation allows the Department of General Services (DGS) to include veteran status on DGS-issued identification cards. SB 48 provides an option for veterans applying for a DGS-issued ID cards to be contacted by the Department of Veterans and Military Families. This level of cross-agency coordination can help more veterans access the state and federal benefits they've earned and deserve.

SB 48 is a good a bill. We urge the committee to provide a favorable report.

The following states that have collective bargaining for state employees, AK, CA, CT, DC, DE, HI, IL, ME, MN, NE, NJ, NM, NV, OH, OR, PA, MT, RI, WA have a terminal point for negotiations, either binding interest arbitration, the right to strike, or a legislative process. These processes create a level playing field for both parties.

This legislation would create a mutual incentive to compel parties to reach an agreement around collective bargaining negotiations by instilling a binding interest arbitration process, whereby if the two sides cannot come to agreement through negotiations by a specified deadline the proposals.

From the two sides would be presented to a professional, neutral third- party arbitrator – hearing from witnesses and experts, with data and evidence – for consideration of all the facts involved with the purpose of determining which proposal is most appropriate to implement. The choice by the arbitrator would then be considered a binding resolution to be implemented by the Governor and exclusive bargaining representative for whatever appropriations are necessary to implement and fund the memorandum of understanding. The budgetary powers of the Maryland General Assembly remain unaltered.

SB 188 is a strong and positive step toward enhancing fairness, balance, and efficiency, and resolution. It follows a model that is well-established in other states and among Maryland counties. We urge a favorable report.

