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Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



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Senate Bill 136 - Collective Bargaining - Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission - Police Officers

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee,

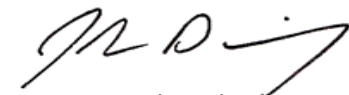
I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 136. This bill would expand the applicability of the State employees collective bargaining law to include police officers of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC) who in an official capacity are authorized to make arrests and are not a supervisory, managerial, or confidential employee.

During the interim, I was made aware by representatives of the State Law Enforcement Officers Labor Alliance (SLEOLA) of an issue regarding collective bargaining for police officers employed by the ATCC. When the General Assembly passed legislation creating ATCC as an independent agency of State government, the bill did not add the officers employed by the ATCC to the State's collective bargaining statute. However, those officers who had been employed by the Comptroller's Office at the time of the transfer of duties were protected by provisions of the bill allowing them to retain all "rights, pay, working conditions, benefits, rights, or status" held on the date of transfer. This means that collective bargaining is available to some, but not all, police officers in the ATCC.

I know that it was not the intent of this General Assembly to take away collective bargaining rights from a class of State employees and particularly create a situation where some but not all employees performing the same job duties had access to collective bargaining. Senate Bill 136 will resolve this inconsistency by making all ATCC officers eligible for collective bargaining.

I thank Senator Kramer for introducing this legislation this year, and I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 136. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Senator Jack Bailey