

# **SEIU Local 500 - Testimony in Support of SB 136 20**

Uploaded by: Christopher Cano

Position: FAV



Testimony - SB 136, Collective Bargaining - Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis  
Commission - Police Officers  
Favorable  
Senate Finance Committee  
February 5, 2026  
Christopher C. Cano, MPA  
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs on Behalf of SEIU Local 500

Honorable Chairwoman Beidle & Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

SEIU Local 500 represents public workers across Maryland who provide essential services every day and who know firsthand that collective bargaining is one of the most effective tools workers have to ensure fairness, accountability, and dignity on the job. Senate Bill 136 advances that principle by extending collective bargaining rights to police officers of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission—workers who currently lack the same protections afforded to many of their public-sector peers.

At its core, this bill is about labor solidarity. The right to organize and bargain collectively should not depend on job title, agency, or political convenience. When some public workers are excluded from these rights, it weakens standards for all workers and undermines the stability of the public workforce as a whole.

SEIU Local 500 believes strongly that every public worker deserves a voice in their working conditions, including wages, benefits, safety, scheduling, and disciplinary processes. Collective bargaining promotes transparency, reduces conflict, improves morale, and leads to more effective public service delivery. These benefits extend not only to workers, but also to the communities they serve.

SB 136 takes an important step toward closing gaps in Maryland's collective bargaining framework. While SEIU Local 500 continues to advocate for collective bargaining rights for all public workers who are still excluded under current law, we recognize this bill as meaningful progress in the right direction. No group of workers should be left behind.

Maryland has long positioned itself as a state that values working people. Upholding that commitment means ensuring that labor rights are applied consistently and equitably across the public sector. We believe you all should look to your colleagues to the south in Virginia who are advancing legislation enfranchising public sector collective bargaining rights for all. If Maryland wishes to stay economically competitive, we must ensure our public workforce sets the example. SB 136 reinforces that commitment by affirming that workers at the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission deserve the same respect and protections as other state employees.

For these reasons, SEIU Local 500 urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 136.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Christopher C. Cano, MPA  
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs  
SEIU Local 500

**SB136\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Donna Edwards

Position: FAV



## MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

*Affiliated with the National AFL-CIO*

**Donna S. Edwards**  
*President*

**Samuel Epps, IV**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

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### **SB 136 - Collective Bargaining - Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission - Police Officers**

#### **Senate Finance Committee**

**February 5, 2026**

#### **SUPPORT**

**Donna S. Edwards**

#### **Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 136. On behalf of our 700 affiliated unions, I offer the following comments.

SB 136 is a straightforward fix to Maryland law. In 2019, the General Assembly passed SB 703, which created the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, and transferred the Comptroller's Field Enforcement Division (FED) under the new commission. Earlier in 2012, Maryland had extended collective bargaining rights to FED law enforcement officers in the Comptroller's office. However, when SB 703 moved the division to the ATC, (now the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission - ATCC), the law did not clearly state that these employees retained the same bargaining rights. Because of that gap, any police officers hired after the transfer were no longer eligible for collective bargaining.

This legislation simply corrects that oversight. It restores collective bargaining rights for ATCC police officers regardless of when they were hired. Collective bargaining is essential for these officers as it provides a structured process for addressing workplace issues and strengthens communication between the officers and commission leadership.

This is a simple correction of the law, but it has a meaningful impact. It ensures workers have the same voice and protections they previously relied on.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on SB 136.



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# **SB136\_SenatorBailey\_FAV**

Uploaded by: Senator Bailey

Position: FAV

**JACK BAILEY**  
*Legislative District 29*  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 401  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3673  
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*District Office*  
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101  
Hollywood, Maryland 20636  
240-309-4238

February 5, 2026

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

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee,

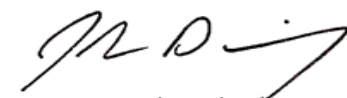
I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 136. This bill would expand the applicability of the State employees collective bargaining law to include police officers of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC) who in an official capacity are authorized to make arrests and are 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

# **SB136 - Favorable with Amendments - ATCC - 2-5-202**

Uploaded by: Andrew Garrison

Position: FWA



# ATCC

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission

Wes Moore  
Governor

Aruna K. Miller  
Lt. Governor

Jeffrey A. Kelly  
Executive Director

February 5, 2026

**BILL: SB136 - Collective Bargaining - Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission - Police Officers**

**COMMITTEE: Finance**

**POSITION: Favorable with Amendments**

Chair Beidle and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I write on behalf of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC) to request a **Favorable Report with Amendments for SB136 - Collective Bargaining - Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission - Police Officers.**

SB136 corrects an oversight regarding the ATCC's Field Enforcement Division (FED) agents' ability to participate in collective bargaining. Currently, the ATCC is not listed under the State Personnel and Pensions Article - Sec. 3-102. Certain interpretations of law have suggested that FED agents may not participate in collective bargaining. However, prior to the creation of the ATC in 2019, when FED agents were a part of the Comptroller's Office, they were collectively bargained for and represented by the State Law Enforcement Officers Labor Alliance (SLEOLA).

FED agents retained their bargaining status and rights throughout this agency's transition from the Comptroller's Office in 2019, to our current form as an independent State agency. In its passage of Chapter 12 of 2019, the Maryland General Assembly wisely included uncodified language ensuring that State employees who underwent this transition would not have rights, working conditions, or employment status impacted. Until the beginning of FY26, FED agents enjoyed the benefits of SLEOLA membership, including paying union dues, electing union representatives for the agency, and participating in the SLEOLA health plan.

Upon notice of their ineligibility, ATCC worked with the Department of Budget and Management and SLEOLA to correct this gap in representation. It was determined that the best path forward to restore FED agents' collective bargaining rights was to include them as a collective bargaining group under Sec. 3-102 of the State Personnel and Pensions Article. SB136 accomplishes this feat.

Lastly, it is the ATCC's understanding that there is a sponsor amendment that would change the effective date from October 1, 2026, to July 1, 2026. The ATCC considers this amendment to be technical in nature and would support its inclusion in SB136. A July 1, 2026 effective date would ensure that ATCC's sworn officers impacted by this legislation

would be able to be considered members of SLEOLA during the upcoming collective bargaining cycle.

**For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Senate Finance Committee to issue a Favorable Report with Amendments for SB136 - Collective Bargaining - Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission - Police Officers.**

Thank you for your consideration and I am available to answer any questions or concerns that you may have related to my testimony on this piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JA Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey A. Kelly  
Executive Director  
Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission of Maryland

**SB 136 FIN 02-05-2026 - SLEOLA - FWA.pdf**

Uploaded by: David Lewis

Position: FWA



**State Law Enforcement  
Officers Labor Alliance**  
542 Ritchie Highway  
Severna Park, Maryland 21146



February 5, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: SB 136 – Collective Bargaining – Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission – Police Officers – SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**

Dear Chair Beidle:

The State Law Enforcement Labor Alliance (SLEOLA) is the exclusive representative for 1,757 active state law enforcement officers, including the following agencies:

- Maryland State Police
- Maryland Natural Resources Police
- Field Enforcement Bureau
- Maryland State Fire Marshall
- Maryland Capitol Police
- Department of Health Police
- Maryland Vehicle Administration Police
- Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Intelligence and Investigative Division
- Warrant Apprehension Unit of the Division of Parole and Probation in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Senate Bill 136 applies provisions of law governing collective bargaining for State employees to specific police officers of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission. SLEOLA supports this proposal as it affords bargaining rights to law enforcement officers who were previously afforded these rights.

As written, the bill lists an effective date of October 1, 2016. We would request an amendment to the bill to reflect a July 1, 2026 effective date. This would align with the start of the fiscal year and, more importantly, would coincide with the effective date of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SLEOLA and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

The current effective date possibly creates timing and implementation concerns. Aligning the effective date with the fiscal year and the MOU would provide greater clarity and consistency for members.

The State Law Enforcement Labor Alliance would like to thank Senators Kramer and Bailey for proposing this bill and ask the Committee for a favorable with amendments report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Dave Lewis  
Vice President

cc: Members, Senate Finance Committee

# **SB136\_FinalReprint**

Uploaded by: Senator Kramer

Position: FWA

# SENATE BILL 136

P4

6lr1397

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Senators Kramer and Bailey**

Requested: October 28, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Collective Bargaining – Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission – Police**  
3 **Officers**

4 FOR the purpose of applying certain provisions of law governing collective bargaining for  
5 State employees to certain police officers of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis  
6 Commission; and generally relating to collective bargaining rights for police officers  
7 of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – State Personnel and Pensions  
10 Section 3–102(a) and (b)(13)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – State Personnel and Pensions**

16 3–102.

17 (a) Except as provided in this title or as otherwise provided by law, this title  
18 applies to:

19 (1) all employees of:

20 (i) the principal departments within the Executive Branch of State  
21 government;

22 (ii) the Maryland Insurance Administration;

2 REPRINT OF SENATE BILL 136 as amended by SB0136/203025/1 01/20/26 at 10:19 AM

- 1 (iii) the State Department of Assessments and Taxation;
- 2 (iv) the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency;
- 3 (v) the University System of Maryland, Morgan State University,
- 4 St. Mary's College of Maryland, and Baltimore City Community College;
- 5 (vi) the Comptroller;
- 6 (vii) the Maryland Transportation Authority who are not police
- 7 officers;
- 8 (viii) the State Retirement Agency;
- 9 (ix) the State Department of Education;
- 10 (x) the Maryland Environmental Service;
- 11 (xi) the Maryland School for the Deaf; and
- 12 (xii) the Office of the Public Defender;

13 (2) firefighters for the Martin State Airport at the rank of captain or below  
14 who are employed by the Military Department; [and]

15 (3) all full-time Maryland Transportation Authority police officers at the  
16 rank of first sergeant and below; AND

17 **(4) POLICE OFFICERS WHO IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY ARE**  
18 **AUTHORIZED TO MAKE ARRESTS AND ARE EMPLOYEES OF THE ALCOHOL, TOBACCO,**  
19 **AND CANNABIS COMMISSION.**

20 (b) This title does not apply to:

21 (13) any employee described in subsection (a)(2) OR (4) of this section who  
22 is a supervisory, managerial, or confidential employee, as defined in regulations adopted  
23 by the Secretary.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
25 ~~October~~ July 1, 2026.

# **SB136\_SponsorAmendment**

Uploaded by: Senator Kramer

Position: FWA



**SB0136/203025/1**

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

20 JAN 26  
10:20:00

BY: Senator Kramer  
(To be offered in the Finance Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 136  
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 2, in line 25, strike "October" and substitute "July".

# **SB136-DBM\_FWA**

Uploaded by: Dana Phillips

Position: INFO

WES MOORE  
*Governor*

ARUNA MILLER  
*Lieutenant Governor*



YAAKOV "JAKE" WEISSMANN  
*Acting Secretary*

MARC L. NICOLE  
*Deputy Secretary*

**TITLE: SB136 Collective Bargaining - Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission - Police Officers**

**DATE: February 5th 2026**

**COMMITTEE: Finance**

**POSITION: Letter of Support with Amendments**

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Senate Bill 136 grants collective bargaining rights to police officers employed by the Maryland Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC). If passed, these officers will be able to join a union, negotiate contracts, and participate in the same collective bargaining processes as other State employees and Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) police.

**EXPLANATION:** The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) supports the intent of SB 136 and the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission's (ATCC) request for an effective date of July 1, 2026. While DBM initially suggested a January transition for administrative purposes, we are prepared to move it to an earlier date. Once the bargaining status is updated, the system automatically switches the benefit group to SLEOLA. This will generate an automated notification in Workday for each officer. It is critical to note that officers have a strict 60-day window to make new elections. Operationally, this means the ATCC must take an active role in monitoring these transitions. Unlike a January 1 start, which follows the standard Open Enrollment process, a July 1 start requires the Agency to ensure every impacted individual completes their Workday task. If an officer fails to make an election within the 60-day period they would be unable to go back and change an election. DBM is committed to supporting this timeline, provided the ATCC is prepared to manage the internal follow-up required to ensure no officer is negatively impacted by the retroactivity or election deadlines.

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<http://dbm.maryland.gov>

WES MOORE  
*Governor*

ARUNA MILLER  
*Lieutenant Governor*



YAAKOV "JAKE" WEISSMANN  
*Acting Secretary*

MARC L. NICOLE  
*Deputy Secretary*

**For additional information, contact Dana Phillips at  
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