

# HOUSE BILL 589

K3  
HB 1270/23 – HRU

4lr0958  
CF 4lr2623

---

By: **Dorchester County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Judiciary

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Dorchester County – County Applicants – Polygraph Examination**

3 FOR the purpose of exempting certain applicants for employment with the Dorchester  
4 County Department of Emergency Services and the Dorchester County Department  
5 of Corrections from the prohibition on employers requiring or demanding that an  
6 individual submit to or take a polygraph examination as a condition of prospective  
7 employment; and generally relating to polygraph examinations as a condition of  
8 employment.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Labor and Employment  
11 Section 3–702  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Labor and Employment**

17 3–702.

18 (a) In this section, “employer” means:

19 (1) a person engaged in a business, industry, profession, trade, or other  
20 enterprise in the State;

21 (2) the State;

22 (3) a county; and

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) a municipal corporation in the State.

2 (b) (1) This section does not apply to the federal government or any of its units.

3 (2) This section does not apply to an individual who is an employee of or  
4 applies for assignment to the Intelligence and Investigative Division of the Department of  
5 Public Safety and Correctional Services.

6 (3) This section does not apply to an individual who applies for employment  
7 or is employed:

8 (i) as a law enforcement officer, as defined in § 3–101 of the Public  
9 Safety Article;

10 (ii) as an employee of a law enforcement agency of the State, a  
11 county, or a municipal corporation;

12 (iii) as a communications officer of the Calvert County Control  
13 Center;

14 (iv) as a correctional officer of a State correctional facility;

15 (v) as an employee of a State correctional facility in any capacity  
16 that involves direct contact with an inmate in a State correctional facility;

17 (vi) as a correctional officer of the Calvert County Detention Center  
18 or in any other capacity that involves direct personal contact with an inmate in the  
19 Detention Center;

20 (vii) as a correctional officer of the Carroll County Detention Center  
21 or in any other capacity that involves direct personal contact with an inmate in the  
22 Detention Center;

23 (viii) as a correctional officer of the Washington County Detention  
24 Center or in any other capacity that involves direct personal contact with an inmate in the  
25 Center; or

26 (ix) as a correctional officer of:

27 1. the Baltimore County Detention Center;

28 2. the Cecil County Detention Center;

29 3. the Charles County Detention Center;

30 4. the Frederick County Adult Detention Center;

1                   5.     the Harford County Detention Center; or

2                   6.     the St. Mary's County Detention Center.

3                   (4)    This section does not apply to an applicant for employment as a  
4   correctional officer of a local correctional facility.

5                   (5)    This section does not apply to an applicant for employment with either  
6   the Anne Arundel County Department of Detention Facilities or the Caroline County  
7   Department of Corrections in any capacity that involves direct contact with an inmate in  
8   either the Anne Arundel County Department of Detention Facilities or the Caroline County  
9   Department of Corrections.

10                  (6)    This section does not apply to an applicant for employment with the  
11   Washington County Emergency Communications Center.

12                  (7)    This section does not apply to an applicant for employment:

13                   (i)     as a paramedic or an emergency medical technician with St.  
14   Mary's County; or

15                   (ii)    with the St. Mary's County Emergency Communications Center.

16                  **(8)    THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO AN APPLICANT FOR**  
17   **EMPLOYMENT:**

18                   **(I)     AS A PARAMEDIC OR AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN**  
19   **WITH THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION WITHIN THE DORCHESTER**  
20   **COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES;**

21                   **(II)    AS A 9-1-1 CENTER DISPATCHER AT THE DORCHESTER**  
22   **COUNTY 9-1-1 CENTER WITHIN THE DORCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF**  
23   **EMERGENCY SERVICES; OR**

24                   **(III)  AS A CORRECTIONAL OFFICER AT THE DORCHESTER**  
25   **COUNTY DETENTION CENTER WITHIN THE DORCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT**  
26   **OF CORRECTIONS.**

27                  (c)    An employer may not require or demand, as a condition of employment,  
28   prospective employment, or continued employment, that an individual submit to or take a  
29   polygraph examination or similar test.

30                  (d)    (1)    Each application for employment shall set out, in bold-faced upper case  
31   type, the following notice:

1 “Under Maryland law, an employer may not require or demand, as a condition of  
2 employment, prospective employment, or continued employment, that an individual submit  
3 to or take a polygraph examination or similar test. An employer who violates this law is  
4 guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine not exceeding \$100.”

5 (2) Each application shall provide a space for an applicant to sign an  
6 acknowledgment of the notice required under this subsection.

7 (e) An applicant shall sign the acknowledgment of the notice required under  
8 subsection (d) of this section.

9 (f) If an employer violates subsection (c) or (d) of this section, an applicant for  
10 employment or prospective employment or an employee may submit to the Commissioner  
11 a written complaint.

12 (g) (1) Whenever the Commissioner determines that this section has been  
13 violated, the Commissioner may:

14 (i) try to resolve any issue involved in the violation informally by  
15 mediation; or

16 (ii) ask the Attorney General to bring an action on behalf of the  
17 applicant or employee.

18 (2) The Attorney General may bring an action under this section in the  
19 county where the violation allegedly occurred, for injunctive relief, damages, or other relief.

20 (h) An employer who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a  
21 misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$100.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
23 October 1, 2024.