

# HOUSE BILL 1453

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By: **Chair, Economic Matters Committee (By Request – Departmental – Labor, Licensing and Regulation)**

Introduced and read first time: February 27, 2009

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Unemployment Insurance – Exemption from Covered Employment – Home**  
3 **Workers**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that work performed by certain home workers is not  
5 covered employment for the purposes of unemployment insurance; providing  
6 that certain contributions and benefit charges collected are not subject to  
7 refund; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to  
8 unemployment insurance law.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Labor and Employment  
11 Section 8–206  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2008 Replacement Volume)

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

16 **Article – Labor and Employment**

17 8–206.

18 (a) Work is not covered employment when performed by a licensed barber or  
19 licensed cosmetologist who leases a chair or booth from a holder of a barbershop  
20 permit, a beauty salon permit, or an owner–manager permit who operates a  
21 barbershop or beauty salon, if the Secretary is satisfied that:

22 (1) the barber or cosmetologist as lessee and the permit holder have  
23 entered into a written lease that is in effect;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (2)    the lessee pays a stipulated amount for use of the chair or booth  
2 and is not required to make any further accounting of income to the permit holder;

3           (3)    the lessee has access to the premises at all hours and may set  
4 personal work hours and prices; and

5           (4)    the lease expressly states that the lessee knows:

6                   (i)    of the responsibility to pay State and federal income taxes  
7 and make contributions to Social Security for self-employment; and

8                   (ii)   that the work is not covered employment.

9           (b)    Work that a direct seller performs is not covered employment if the  
10 Secretary is satisfied that:

11                   (1)    the direct seller is engaged in the trade or business of selling  
12 consumer products:

13                           (i)    in the home or at any other location outside of a permanent  
14 retail establishment; or

15                           (ii)   to a buyer on a buy-sell basis, a deposit-commission basis,  
16 or any similar basis for resale by the buyer or any other person in the home or at any  
17 other location outside of a permanent retail establishment;

18                   (2)    the direct seller and the person for whom the work is performed  
19 have entered into a written agreement that is currently in effect;

20                   (3)    substantially all of the compensation for the employment is related  
21 directly to sales or other output, including the performance of a service, rather than to  
22 the number of hours worked; and

23                   (4)    the written agreement states that the direct seller will not be  
24 treated as an employee for the purpose of State and federal income taxes with respect  
25 to the employment performed under the agreement.

26           (c)    Work that an individual performs is not covered employment if the  
27 Secretary is satisfied that the individual:

28                   (1)    is engaged in the trade or business of delivering or distributing  
29 newspapers or shopping news, including any services directly related to the delivery or  
30 distribution of newspapers or shopping news; and

31                   (2)    meets the requirements for a direct seller under subsection (b)(2),  
32 (3), and (4) of this section.

1 (d) Work that a messenger service driver performs for a person who is  
2 engaged in the messenger service business is not covered employment if the Secretary  
3 is satisfied that:

4 (1) the driver and the person who is engaged in the messenger service  
5 business have entered into a written agreement that is currently in effect;

6 (2) the driver personally provides the vehicle;

7 (3) compensation is by commission only;

8 (4) the driver may set personal work hours; and

9 (5) the written agreement states expressly and prominently that the  
10 driver knows:

11 (i) of the responsibility to pay estimated Social Security taxes  
12 and State and federal income taxes;

13 (ii) that the Social Security tax the driver must pay is higher  
14 than the Social Security tax the driver would pay otherwise; and

15 (iii) that the work is not covered employment.

16 (e) Work is not covered employment when performed by a taxicab driver who  
17 uses a taxicab or taxicab equipment of a taxicab business that is carried on by the  
18 holder of a taxicab permit if the Secretary is satisfied that:

19 (1) the driver and permit holder have entered into a written  
20 agreement that is currently in effect for the use of the taxicab or taxicab equipment;

21 (2) the driver pays a stipulated amount for the use of the taxicab or  
22 taxicab equipment and is not required to make any further accounting to the permit  
23 holder;

24 (3) the driver has access to the taxicab or taxicab equipment at all  
25 hours and, subject to the Public Utility Companies Article, may set personal work  
26 hours and places; and

27 (4) the agreement states expressly that the driver knows:

28 (i) of the responsibility to pay State and federal income taxes;  
29 and

30 (ii) that the work is not covered employment.

31 (f) (1) (i) This subsection applies to an individual who is an owner  
32 operator of:

1                           1.     a Class F (tractor) vehicle, described in § 13–923 of  
2 the Transportation Article; or

3                           2.     except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this  
4 paragraph, a Class E (truck) vehicle, as described in § 13–916 of the Transportation  
5 Article, including a Class E (truck) vehicle described in § 13–919 of the Transportation  
6 Article.

7                           (ii)    This subsection does not apply to an individual who is an  
8 owner operator of a vehicle registered as a Class T (tow truck) vehicle under § 13–920  
9 of the Transportation Article.

10                       (2)    Work is not covered employment when performed by an owner  
11 operator if the Secretary is satisfied that:

12                           (i)    the owner operator and a motor carrier have entered into a  
13 written agreement that is currently in effect for permanent or trip leasing;

14                           (ii)    under the agreement:

15                               1.     there is no intent to create an employer–employee  
16 relationship; and

17                               2.     the owner operator is paid rental compensation;

18                           (iii)  for federal tax purposes, the owner operator qualifies as an  
19 independent contractor; and

20                           (iv)   the owner operator:

21                               1.     owns the vehicle or holds it under a bona fide lease  
22 arrangement;

23                               2.     is responsible for the maintenance of the vehicle;

24                               3.     bears the principal burden of the operating costs of  
25 the vehicle, including fuel, repairs, supplies, vehicle insurance, and personal expenses  
26 while the vehicle is on the road;

27                               4.     is responsible for supplying the necessary personnel  
28 in connection with the operation of the vehicle; and

29                               5.     generally determines the details and means of  
30 performing the services under the agreement, in conformance with regulatory  
31 requirements, operating procedures of the motor carrier, and specifications of the  
32 shipper.

1           **(G) WORK IS NOT COVERED EMPLOYMENT WHEN PERFORMED BY A**  
2 **HOME WORKER IF THE SECRETARY IS SATISFIED THAT:**

3                   **(1) THE WORK IS PERFORMED ACCORDING TO SPECIFICATIONS**  
4 **FURNISHED BY THE PERSON FOR WHOM THE SERVICES ARE PERFORMED;**

5                   **(2) THE WORK IS PERFORMED ON TEXTILES FURNISHED BY THE**  
6 **PERSON FOR WHOM THE SERVICES ARE PERFORMED; AND**

7                   **(3) THE TEXTILES MUST BE RETURNED TO THE PERSON FOR**  
8 **WHOM THE SERVICES ARE PERFORMED OR THAT PERSON'S DESIGNEE.**

9           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 8-206(g) of the  
10 Labor and Employment Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall be applied to  
11 and interpreted to affect all determinations by the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and  
12 Regulation of: (1) rates of contributions for employing units for all calendar years  
13 beginning on or after January 1, 2010; and (2) benefit charges for unemployment  
14 insurance claims for benefits based on work performed on or after January 1, 2010.  
15 Contributions paid or benefit charges collected prior to January 1, 2010, that would be  
16 affected by the enactment of Section 1 of this Act, are not subject to refund.

17           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
18 October 1, 2009.