

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Revised

House Bill 249 (Delegate W. Miller, *et al.*)
 Economic Matters

Labor and Employment - Labor Organizations - Right to Work

This bill specifies that an employer may not require, as a condition of employment or continued employment, an employee or prospective employee to (1) join or remain a member of a labor organization; (2) pay any dues, fees, assessments, or other charges to a labor organization; or (3) pay any charity or another third party an equivalent amount in lieu of a payment to a labor organization. The bill repeals various provisions of State law that authorize an employer, including the State and units of government, to require that an employee pay a fee (service, maintenance, or representation fee) to a labor organization to which the employee is not a member.

The bill applies only prospectively and may not be interpreted to apply to a collective bargaining agreement entered into before the bill’s October 1, 2015 effective date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$282,000 for the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to carry out the bill’s enforcement requirements. Out-year costs reflect elimination of one-time costs, annualization, and inflation. The bill’s criminal penalty provisions are not expected to materially affect State finances.

(in dollars)	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	282,200	360,600	376,900	393,900	411,800
Net Effect	(\$282,200)	(\$360,600)	(\$376,900)	(\$393,900)	(\$411,800)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Potential minimal decrease in expenditures for local governments due to relief of the operational burden associated with collecting nonmember service fees on behalf of the exclusive representative of certain bargaining units. The circuit courts can likely handle any increase in litigation with existing resources. The criminal penalty provisions of the bill are not expected to materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. Small businesses may benefit from reduced labor costs.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill allows an employee, or prospective employee, to pursue a *civil* cause of action in circuit court against an employer that violates the bill's provisions. If an employer is found liable for a violation, the employee or prospective employee is entitled to injunctive relief, damages, court costs, and reasonable attorney's fees.

The Attorney General must (1) take any steps necessary to ensure effective enforcement of the bill; (2) investigate all related complaints; and (3) commence and try all related prosecutions. The bill specifies that the Attorney General has all the powers and duties vested in State's Attorneys under law with respect to criminal prosecutions related to the bill's provisions.

An individual who violates the bill's provisions is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to maximum penalties of imprisonment for one year and/or a fine of \$1,000. A person other than an individual who violates the bill's provisions is likewise guilty of a misdemeanor but is subject only to a fine of up to \$1,000.

The bill does not apply to (1) employers and employees covered by the federal Railway Labor Act; (2) federal employers and employees; and (3) employers and employees on exclusive federal enclaves. Any provision of the bill that conflicts with or is preempted by federal law is unenforceable.

Current Law/Background: State law specifies that it is the policy of the State that negotiation of terms and conditions of employment should result from a voluntary agreement between employees and the employer and, thus, each individual worker must be fully free to associate, organize, and designate a representative for negotiation of terms and conditions of employment. This process must be free from coercion, interference, or restraint by an employer in (1) designation of a representative; (2) self-organization; and (3) other concerted activity for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection. State law establishes a procedure for certifying a labor organization as the bargaining representative for a workplace, and a majority of employees must vote in favor of joining a union in order for a workplace to unionize.

“Right-to-Work” Laws

The federal Taft-Hartley Act of 1947 banned “closed shops,” which are places of employment bound by an agreement to hire only the members of a particular union. However, the Taft-Hartley Act, as amended, allowed for the continued existence of “union shops,” which are places of employment that require employees to join a union within a certain number of days after being hired. Many states have banned union shops; these states are sometimes referred to as “right-to-work” states. **Exhibit 1** depicts the 24 states that have established right-to-work laws that include provisions similar to the bill; Michigan became the latest state to enact a similar law in December 2012.

Exhibit 1
States with “Right-to-Work” Laws

Alabama	Indiana	Nebraska	South Dakota
Arizona	Iowa	Nevada	Tennessee
Arkansas	Kansas	North Carolina	Texas
Florida	Louisiana	North Dakota	Utah
Georgia	Michigan	Oklahoma	Virginia
Idaho	Mississippi	South Carolina	Wyoming

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Maryland law does not prohibit the existence of union shops. In cases where a union exists in a workplace but employees are not required to join, State law allows a labor organization to negotiate the assessment of a fee – sometimes called a service fee, shop fee, or agency fee – to nonmember employees who receive wage increases and/or additional benefits residually due to a collective bargaining agreement. If such fees are not included in a collective bargaining agreement, they may not be assessed.

Maryland Bargaining Units

Exhibit 2 shows the number of State employees in each bargaining unit. Maryland’s collective bargaining law applies to employees of the Executive Branch departments, the Maryland Insurance Administration, the State Department of Assessments and Taxation, the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency, University System of Maryland (USM), the Office of the Comptroller, the Maryland Transportation Authority who are not police officers, the State Retirement Agency, the Maryland State Department of Education, Morgan State University, St. Mary’s College of Maryland, and Baltimore City Community College.

Certain Executive Branch employees within the State do not have these rights, such as elected government officials; political appointees or employees by special appointment; or any supervisory, managerial, or confidential employees of an Executive Branch department.

Exhibit 2
State of Maryland Bargaining Units
(Excluding Higher Education Units)

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Unit Name</u>	<u>Employees</u>	<u>Exclusive Representative</u>
A	Labor and Trades	748	AFSCME MD
B	Administrative, Technical, and Clerical	3,733	AFSCME MD
C	Regulatory, Inspection, and License	614	AFSCME MD
D	Health and Human Services (nonprof.)	1,753	AFSCME MD
E	Health Care Professionals	1,783	AFT – Healthcare MD
F	Social and Human Services Professionals	3,789	AFSCME MD
G	Engineering, Scientific, and Administrative Professionals	3,830	MPEC
H	Public Safety and Security	9,309	AFSCME/Teamsters
I	Sworn Police Officers	1,781	SLEOLA

Note: AFSCME = American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees; AFT = American Federation of Teachers; MPEC = Maryland Professional Employees Council; SLEOLA = State Law Enforcement Officers’ Labor Alliance

Source: Department of Budget and Management, February 2015

State Employees May Be Assessed Service Fees

Chapter 187 of 2009 authorizes the State to collectively bargain with the exclusive representative of a bargaining unit for service fees from State employees who are not members of that exclusive representative. Thus, employees who are in a bargaining unit but are not members of any employee organization must pay the service fee if a fee is successfully negotiated. Likewise, employees who are dues-paying members of an employee organization that is not the exclusive representative must also pay any negotiated service fee.

Chapter 428 of 2013 authorized an employee organization to collectively bargain with a USM institution, Morgan State University, St. Mary's College of Maryland, or Baltimore City Community College regarding the right of the employee organization to collect service fees from nonmembers.

Employees may not be required to pay a service fee due to specified religious objections. However, such employees are required to pay up to an amount equal to the negotiated service fee to a nonprofit charitable organization. To receive this exemption, employees must provide proof of payment to the exclusive representative and the Department of Budget and Management.

While an exclusive representative bargains for all members of a particular bargaining unit, only some of these individuals pay union membership dues to the representing organization. A service fee is paid by an employee to his or her bargaining unit's exclusive representative to offset costs attributable to the collective bargaining process. Generally, this fee is less than the fee charged for union dues.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations; and the State regarding bargaining units A, B, C, D, F, and H includes a provision requiring all employees who are covered by the MOU but who are not members of AFSCME to pay AFSCME a service fee as a condition of continued employment with the State. The requirement to pay the service fee was effective July 1, 2011, or within 30 calendar days of employment with the bargaining unit. The amount of the service fee was not specified in the proposed MOU but must not exceed the amount of dues uniformly required of AFSCME members. The MOU requires the State to automatically withhold from the biweekly salary of each employee who is not an AFSCME member the service fee as determined without the necessity of a written, signed authorization of the employee. The fee assessed for a full-time employee by AFSCME, which represents the largest group of State employees, is \$14.24 per biweekly pay period, or \$370 per year.

Chapter 171 of 2011 codifies collective bargaining rights for "independent home care providers" who participate in and are reimbursed under one of four State programs (or a successor program of one of these programs): the Medicaid Waiver for Older Adults Program, the Medicaid Personal Care Program, the Living at Home Waiver Program, and the In-Home Aide Service Program. It specifies that a future collective bargaining agreement may allow an exclusive representative to receive service fees from independent home care providers who are not members of the "provider organization" but are nonetheless represented by the organization. However, the State must conclude that the agreement as a whole will not adversely affect nonmember providers. A service fee provision is only allowable if nonmembers pay fees on a sliding scale in approximate

proportion to the amount that each nonmember independent home care provider receives as reimbursement.

Supreme Court Rulings

The U.S. Supreme Court has issued several opinions relating to the right of a public-sector exclusive representative to collect service fees from nonunion members. In *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*, 431 U.S. 209 (1977), the court found that, while an exclusive representative could collect a fee from nonunion members, the fee revenues could not be used to support ideological causes not germane to the organization's duties as the collective bargaining representative. In another case, the *Chicago Teachers Union v. Hudson*, 475 U.S. 292 (1986), the court held that, in order to protect nonunion members' constitutional rights to freedom of speech and association, the union's collection of agency fees must "include an adequate explanation of the basis for the fee, a reasonably prompt opportunity to challenge the amount of the fee before an impartial decision maker, and an escrow for the amounts reasonably in dispute while such challenges are pending."

However, in *Harris v. Quinn*, 573 U.S. __ (2014), slip op., the court ruled home health care workers in Illinois are not required to pay service fees because these home health care workers are unlike full-fledged public employees and do not enjoy most of the rights and benefits that state employees received. Although this ruling has a narrow scope by exempting only certain workers from being considered public employees, a labor union in Maryland, SEIU Local 500, stopped requiring payment of service fees from nonunion members as a result of this court decision. Thus, the Maryland State Department of Education advises that it no longer deducts service fees from child care subsidy reimbursements made to family child care providers.

Prevalence of Unions

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 11.9% of employees in Maryland were *members of unions* and 13.3% of employees in Maryland were *represented by unions* (which includes those paying service fees) in 2014. These percentages are slightly higher than the national average of 11.1% and 12.3%, respectively. **Exhibit 3** shows the percentage of union members and workers represented by unions in Maryland and its surrounding states, including the District of Columbia. Nationally, public-sector employees had a union membership rate of 35.7%, which was more than five times higher than the union membership rate of 6.6% for private-sector employees in 2014.

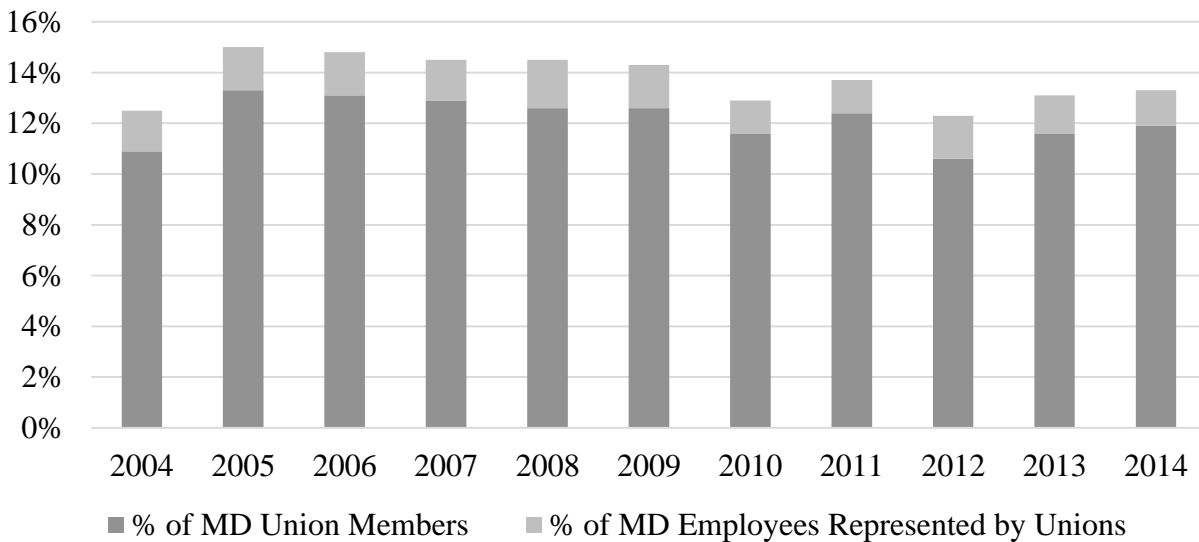
Exhibit 3
Union Participation Rates in Maryland and Surrounding States
2014

	<u>Union Members</u>	Represented by <u>Unions</u>
Delaware	9.9%	11.3%
District of Columbia	8.6%	10.7%
Maryland	11.9%	13.3%
Pennsylvania	12.7%	13.7%
Virginia	4.9%	6.2%
West Virginia	10.6%	11.6%

Source: U.S. Department of Labor

Exhibit 4 shows the percentage of union members and workers represented by unions in Maryland from 2004 through 2014.

Exhibit 4
Union Participation Rates in Maryland
2004-2014



Source: U.S. Department of Labor

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures increase for OAG by \$282,204 in fiscal 2016, which accounts for the bill’s October 1, 2015 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring three assistant Attorneys General and one administrative aide to carry out the bill’s enforcement requirements and to investigate complaints. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Positions	4
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$252,359
Operating Expenses	<u>29,845</u>
Total FY 2016 State Expenditures	\$282,204

Future year expenditures reflect full salaries with annual increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

General fund expenditures for the Central Payroll Bureau (CPB) within the Comptroller’s Office may decrease minimally annually because the bill relieves CPB of some of the operational burden associated with collection of approximately \$11.8 million annually in member and nonmember service fees on behalf of the exclusive representative of certain bargaining units. Even so, CPB must continue to collect union dues using the processes currently in place. Additionally, the bill alleviates the administrative burden for CPB over mediating nonunion member service fee disputes as it is likely fewer disputes occur under the bill.

Local Fiscal Effect: Expenditures for local governments may decrease minimally due to relief of the operational burden associated with collecting nonmember service fees on behalf of the exclusive representative of certain bargaining units. The Maryland Municipal League estimates more than 90% of municipalities have no collective bargaining agreements and, therefore, are not affected by the bill. **Exhibit 5** shows the municipalities in Maryland that have collective bargaining agreements.

Exhibit 5
Municipalities with Collective Bargaining Agreements

Annapolis	Frederick
Baltimore City	Greenbelt
Bel Air	Hagerstown
Bowie	Mount Rainier
College Park	Ocean City
Cumberland	Rockville
Elkton	Takoma Park

Source: Maryland Municipal League

Small Business Effect: Prohibiting an employer or labor organization from requiring employees to join, remain members of, or pay dues to a labor organization may reduce wages and thereby lower operating costs for small businesses. In 2014, the national median weekly earnings for union members were \$970, while nonunion members had median weekly earnings of \$763. The effects will be felt most strongly in industries with a strong union presence, such as transportation and utilities (21.2% of employees are union members), telecommunications (16.5% of employees are union members), and construction (14.7% of employees are union members).

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 435 of 2014 and HB 318 of 2013 received unfavorable reports from the House Economic Matters Committee. HB 91 of 2012 and HB 743 of 2011, substantively similar bills, received unfavorable reports from the House Economic Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Somerset counties; cities of Frederick and Havre de Grace; Maryland Municipal League; Baltimore City Community College; Morgan State University; St. Mary's College of Maryland; State Department of Assessments and Taxation; Office of the Attorney General; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Natural Resources; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of General Services; Maryland Higher Education Commission; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Maryland Insurance Administration; Comptroller's Office; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Department of State Police; Maryland State Retirement Agency; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Maryland Department of Transportation; University System of Maryland; American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees; National Conference of State Legislatures; U.S. Department of Labor; U.S. Supreme Court; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2015
md/mcr Revised - Clarification - February 18, 2015

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