

# SENATE BILL 260

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CF 0lr2781

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By: **Senators Washington, Benson, Carter, Lam, Lee, Patterson, and Sydnor**  
Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2020  
Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Labor and Employment – Leave With Pay – Bereavement Leave**  
3 **(Family Bereavement Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing employees of certain employers to use certain leave with  
5 pay for bereavement leave; making a conforming change; defining the term  
6 “bereavement leave”; and generally relating to an employee’s use of leave with pay  
7 for bereavement leave.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Labor and Employment  
10 Section 3–802  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Labor and Employment**

16 3–802.

17 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

18 (2) **“BEREAVEMENT LEAVE” MEANS LEAVE AN EMPLOYEE IS**  
19 **ALLOWED TO USE ON THE DEATH OF:**

20 (I) **A MEMBER OF THE EMPLOYEE’S IMMEDIATE FAMILY; OR**

21 (II) **THE EMPLOYEE’S PET.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1            **[(2)] (3)**        “Child” means an adopted, biological, or foster child, a stepchild,  
2 or a legal ward who is:

3                        (i)        under the age of 18 years; or

4                        (ii)       at least 18 years old and incapable of self-care due to a mental  
5 or physical disability.

6            **[(3)] (4)**        (i)        “Employer” means a person that is engaged in a business,  
7 industry, profession, trade, or other enterprise in the State.

8                        (ii)       “Employer” includes a person who acts directly or indirectly in  
9 the interest of another employer with an employee.

10           **[(4)] (5)**        “Immediate family” means a child, spouse, or parent.

11           **[(5)] (6)**        (i)        “Leave with pay” means paid time away from work that is  
12 earned and available to an employee:

13                                1.        based on hours worked; or

14                                2.        as an annual grant of a fixed number of hours or days of  
15 leave for performance of service.

16                        (ii)       “Leave with pay” includes sick leave, vacation time, paid time off,  
17 and compensatory time.

18                        (iii)       “Leave with pay” does not include:

19                                1.        a benefit provided under an employee welfare benefit plan  
20 subject to the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974;

21                                2.        an insurance benefit, including benefits from an  
22 employer’s self-insured plan;

23                                3.        workers’ compensation;

24                                4.        unemployment compensation;

25                                5.        a disability benefit; or

26                                6.        a similar benefit.

27            **[(6)] (7)**        “Parent” means an adoptive, biological, or foster parent, a  
28 stepparent, a legal guardian, or a person standing in loco parentis.

29            (b)    (1)       This section applies to an employee who is primarily employed in the

1 State.

2 (2) This section applies to an employer that:

3 (i) provides leave with pay under the terms of a collective  
4 bargaining agreement or an employment policy; and

5 (ii) employs 15 or more employees for each working day in each of 20  
6 or more calendar weeks in the current or preceding calendar year.

7 (c) The purpose of [this section] **SUBSECTION (D)(1)(I)** is to allow an employee  
8 of an employer to use leave with pay to care for an immediate family member who is ill  
9 under the same conditions and policy rules that would apply if the employee took leave for  
10 the employee's own illness.

11 (d) (1) An employee of an employer may use leave with pay for:

12 **(I) the illness of the employee's immediate family; OR**

13 **(II) BEREAVEMENT LEAVE.**

14 (2) An agreement between an employer and employee to waive the  
15 provisions of this section is void.

16 (e) (1) An employee of an employer:

17 (i) may only use leave with pay under this section that has been  
18 earned; and

19 (ii) who earns more than one type of leave with pay may elect the  
20 type and amount of leave with pay to be used under this section.

21 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, an employee of  
22 an employer who uses leave under this section shall comply with the terms of a collective  
23 bargaining agreement or employment policy.

24 (3) If the terms of a collective bargaining agreement with an employer or  
25 an employment policy of an employer provide a leave with pay benefit that is equal to or  
26 greater than the benefit provided under this section, the collective bargaining agreement  
27 or employment policy prevails.

28 (f) An employer may not discharge, demote, suspend, discipline, or otherwise  
29 discriminate against an employee or threaten to take any of these actions against an  
30 employee because the employee:

31 (1) has requested leave authorized under this section;

1           (2)    has taken leave authorized under this section;

2           (3)    has opposed a practice made unlawful by this section; or

3           (4)    has made a charge, testified, assisted, or participated in an  
4 investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this section.

5           (g)    This section does not:

6           (1)    extend the maximum period of leave an employee has under the federal  
7 Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993; or

8           (2)    limit the period of leave to which an employee is entitled under the  
9 federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

10          (h)    (1)    Whenever the Commissioner determines that this section has been  
11 violated, the Commissioner shall:

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

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

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

18          SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 October 1, 2020.