

May 27, 2022

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 420 – *Employment of Minors – Opportunities for Work*.

This bill compels the Commissioner of Labor and Industry within the Maryland Department of Labor (Labor) to release the name, home address, and telephone number of a minor who is at least 16 years old and has a work permit to the following organizations upon request: (1) employers and apprenticeship sponsors; (2) educational programs and institutions; and (3) local workforce development boards that meet specified requirements. Labor must adopt regulations to implement the bill, including allowing minors or their parents or guardians to opt in to sharing their information.

The concern with Senate Bill 420 does not lie with the expansion of workforce opportunities to minors, but with the serious privacy and safety concerns that are an unintended consequence of this legislation. Allowing a minor the option to consent to share their personal information creates serious privacy and safety concerns, as a minor is unlikely to understand the potential consequences of doing so, or the possibility that a bad actor could obtain this information. I would be more inclined to support Senate Bill 420 if the approval could only be given by a parent or guardian but once again, parental rights are being stripped.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 420.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor