

SENATE BILL 373

P4

5lr1491
CF 5lr1496

By: **Senator Beidle**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Personnel – BWI Airport Fire and Rescue Department – Collective**
3 **Bargaining and Arbitration Processes**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the collective bargaining process between the State and
5 uniformed fire employees of the BWI Airport Fire and Rescue Department by
6 requiring the parties to reach a collective bargaining agreement on or before a
7 certain date; establishing a process of binding arbitration in the event of an impasse;
8 and generally relating to collective bargaining between the State and employees of
9 the BWI Airport Fire and Rescue Department.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – State Personnel and Pensions
12 Section 3–501 and 3–603
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – State Personnel and Pensions**

18 3–501.

19 (a) (1) The following individuals or entities shall designate one or more
20 representatives to participate as a party in collective bargaining on behalf of the State or
21 the following institutions:

22 (i) on behalf of the State, the Governor;

23 (ii) on behalf of the Maryland Environmental Service, the Board of
24 Directors of the Service;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (iii) on behalf of the University System of Maryland, the Chancellor;
2 and

3 (iv) on behalf of Morgan State University, St. Mary's College of
4 Maryland, or Baltimore City Community College, the governing board of the institution.

5 (2) The exclusive representative shall designate one or more
6 representatives to participate as a party in collective bargaining on behalf of the exclusive
7 representative.

8 (b) The parties shall meet at reasonable times and engage in collective bargaining
9 in good faith, including facilitating the meaningful use of a fact finder under subsection
10 (c)(3) of this section, and to conclude a written memorandum of understanding or other
11 written understanding as defined under § 3-101(d)(1)(i)2 of this title.

12 (c) (1) The parties shall make every reasonable effort to conclude negotiations
13 in a timely manner for inclusion by the principal unit in its budget request to the Governor.

14 (2) (i) The parties shall conclude negotiations before January 1 for any
15 item requiring an appropriation of funds for the fiscal year that begins on the following
16 July 1.

17 (ii) In the budget bill submitted to the General Assembly, the
18 Governor shall include any amounts in the budgets of the principal units required to
19 accommodate any additional cost resulting from the negotiations, including the actuarial
20 impact of any legislative changes to any of the State pension or retirement systems that
21 are required, as a result of the negotiations, for the fiscal year beginning the following July
22 1 if the legislative changes have been negotiated to become effective in that fiscal year.

23 (3) (i) **THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY TO NEGOTIATIONS**
24 **BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNIFORMED**
25 **FIRE EMPLOYEES OF THE BWI AIRPORT FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT.**

26 (II) If the parties do not conclude negotiations for the next fiscal year
27 before October 25, either party may request that a fact finder be employed to resolve the
28 issues.

29 [(ii)] (III) The fact finder shall be employed no later than November
30 1.

31 [(iii)] (IV) A fact finder shall be a neutral party appointed by
32 alternate striking from a list by the parties provided:

33 1. by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service; or

1 2. under the Labor Arbitration Rules of the American
2 Arbitration Association.

3 [(iv)] (v) The fact finder:

4 1. may give notice and hold hearings in accordance with the
5 Administrative Procedure Act;

6 2. may administer oaths and take testimony and other
7 evidence;

8 3. may issue subpoenas; and

9 4. before November 20, shall make written recommendations
10 regarding wages, hours, and working conditions, and any other terms or conditions of
11 employment that may be in dispute.

12 [(v)] (VI) The written recommendations of the fact finder shall be
13 delivered to the Governor, the exclusive representative, the President of the Senate, and
14 the Speaker of the House of Delegates by the Secretary on or before December 1.

15 (4) (i) **THIS PARAGRAPH APPLIES ONLY TO NEGOTIATIONS**
16 **BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNIFORMED**
17 **FIRE EMPLOYEES OF THE BWI AIRPORT FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT.**

18 (ii) **THE PARTIES SHALL REACH AN AGREEMENT BY**
19 **SEPTEMBER 30 OF THE YEAR IN WHICH A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT**
20 **WILL EXPIRE.**

21 (iii) **AN IMPASSE IS REACHED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS IF**
22 **THE PARTIES DO NOT REACH AN AGREEMENT:**

23 1. **BY STATING THAT THEY MUTUALLY AGREE THEY ARE**
24 **AT AN IMPASSE; OR**

25 2. **ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 OF THE YEAR IN WHICH A**
26 **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WILL EXPIRE.**

27 (iv) **IF AN IMPASSE IS REACHED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (iii) OF**
28 **THIS PARAGRAPH, EACH PARTY SHALL SUBMIT ITS LAST, BEST, AND FINAL OFFER**
29 **TO THE OTHER PARTY WITHIN 48 HOURS AFTER THE IMPASSE IS REACHED.**

30 (v) 1. **UNLESS THE IMPASSE HAS BEEN RESOLVED, THE**
31 **PARTIES SHALL MEET WITHIN 5 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE IMPASSE IS REACHED**
32 **UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (iii) OF THIS PARAGRAPH TO SELECT AN ARBITRATOR**

1 FROM A LIST OF 15 ARBITRATORS PROVIDED BY THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION
2 ASSOCIATION'S LABOR ARBITRATION PANEL.

3 **2. THE PARTIES SHALL SELECT THE ARBITRATOR BY**
4 **ALTERNATELY STRIKING A NAME FROM THE LIST UNTIL ONE NAME REMAINS.**

5 **3. IF THE SELECTED ARBITRATOR IS UNABLE TO**
6 **FULFILL THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ARBITRATION, THE SELECTION PROCESS**
7 **SHALL BE REPEATED USING A NEW LIST OF ARBITRATORS UNTIL AN ARBITRATOR IS**
8 **SELECTED.**

9 **4. THE PARTIES SHALL SUBMIT THE DISPUTE AND THE**
10 **LAST, BEST, AND FINAL OFFERS TO THE ARBITRATOR WITHIN 5 BUSINESS DAYS**
11 **AFTER THE ARBITRATOR IS SELECTED.**

12 **(VI) 1. THE ARBITRATOR SHALL HOLD FORMAL HEARINGS AS**
13 **NECESSARY IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE.**

14 **2. DURING THE FIRST 21 DAYS IMMEDIATELY**
15 **FOLLOWING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ARBITRATOR AND BEFORE HOLDING ANY**
16 **FORMAL HEARINGS, THE ARBITRATOR MAY, IF DETERMINED APPROPRIATE BY THE**
17 **ARBITRATOR, ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE BY ACTING AS A NEUTRAL**
18 **MEDIATOR BETWEEN THE PARTIES.**

19 **(VII) THE ARBITRATOR SHALL SELECT ONE PARTY'S LAST, BEST,**
20 **AND FINAL OFFER ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 15.**

21 **(VIII) THE DECISION OF THE ARBITRATOR IS BINDING ON THE**
22 **PARTIES.**

23 **(IX) THE PARTIES SHALL EQUALLY SHARE THE COSTS OF THE**
24 **SERVICES OF THE ARBITRATOR.**

25 (d) (1) A memorandum of understanding that incorporates all matters of
26 agreement reached by the parties shall be executed by the exclusive representative and:

27 (i) for a memorandum of understanding relating to the State, the
28 Governor or the Governor's designee;

29 (ii) for a memorandum of understanding relating to the Maryland
30 Environmental Service, the Board of Directors of the Service;

31 (iii) for a memorandum of understanding relating to a system
32 institution, the Chancellor or the Chancellor's designee; and

1 (iv) for a memorandum of understanding relating to Morgan State
2 University, St. Mary's College of Maryland, or Baltimore City Community College, the
3 governing board of the institution or the governing board's designee.

4 (2) To the extent these matters require legislative approval or the
5 appropriation of funds, the matters shall be recommended to the General Assembly for
6 approval or for the appropriation of funds.

7 (3) To the extent matters involving a State institution of higher education
8 require legislative approval, the legislation shall be recommended to the Governor for
9 submission to the General Assembly.

10 (e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, negotiations for
11 a memorandum of understanding shall be considered closed sessions under § 3-305 of the
12 General Provisions Article.

13 (2) An exclusive representative may not be considered a public body under
14 § 3-101 of the General Provisions Article.

15 (f) (1) The terms of a memorandum of understanding executed by the
16 Governor or the Governor's designee and an exclusive representative of a bargaining unit
17 for skilled service or professional service employees in the State Personnel Management
18 System are not applicable to employees of a State institution of higher education.

19 (2) The terms of a memorandum of understanding executed by the
20 Chancellor or the governing board of Morgan State University, St. Mary's College of
21 Maryland, or Baltimore City Community College, or their respective designees, and the
22 exclusive representative of a bargaining unit for employees of a State institution of higher
23 education are not applicable to skilled service or professional service employees in the State
24 Personnel Management System.

25 3-603.

26 (a) A memorandum of understanding agreed to and ratified under § 3-601 of this
27 subtitle may not expire until it is succeeded by a memorandum of understanding that is
28 agreed to and ratified **OR ADOPTED BY ARBITRATION** under this title.

29 (b) Notwithstanding § 3-601(b) of this subtitle, all terms of a memorandum of
30 understanding shall continue in force and effect without change until a successor
31 memorandum of understanding is agreed to and ratified.

32 (c) (1) Based on a verified complaint by an exclusive representative, the
33 exclusive representative may file an action in a circuit court against the State, the
34 Maryland Environmental Service, a system institution, Morgan State University, St.
35 Mary's College of Maryland, or Baltimore City Community College to enforce the terms of
36 this section.

1 (2) On receipt of an action submitted by the exclusive representative, the
2 court shall issue a status quo order without a finding of irreparable harm to maintain a
3 memorandum of understanding and the terms in effect pending a final order in the action.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
5 1, 2025.