

# SENATE BILL 445

K3  
SB 124/25 – FIN

6lr1954  
CF HB 532

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By: Senator Kramer

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Employment Standards – Firefighters – Payment of Wages and Payroll  
3 Information**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring governmental units that employ firefighters to compute  
5 overtime pay in a certain manner; requiring counties and municipalities to provide  
6 certain payroll information to each firefighter employed by the county or  
7 municipality; authorizing a firefighter or the firefighter's exclusive representative to  
8 initiate a certain grievance if a county or municipality does not provide the payroll  
9 information as required or wages due; and generally relating to wages and payroll  
10 information for firefighters.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Labor and Employment  
13 Section 3–420  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2025 Replacement Volume)

16 BY adding to  
17 Article – Local Government  
18 Section 1–210  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2013 Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Labor and Employment**

24 3–420.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “EMPLOYER” INCLUDES A GOVERNMENTAL UNIT**  
2 **THAT EMPLOYS A FIREFIGHTER.**

3           **[(a)] (B)** Except as otherwise provided in this section, an employer shall compute  
4 the wage for overtime under § 3–415 of this subtitle on the basis of each hour over 40 hours  
5 that an employee works during 1 workweek.

6           **[(b)] (C)** Notwithstanding § 3–415(b)(2) of this subtitle, an employer that is not  
7 a nonprofit organization and is a concert promoter, legitimate theater, music festival, music  
8 pavilion, or theatrical show shall pay overtime for a craft or trade employee as required in  
9 subsection **[(a)] (B)** of this section.

10           **[(c)] (D)** The wage for overtime may be computed on the basis of each hour over  
11 60 hours that an employee works during 1 workweek for an employee who:

12           (1) is engaged in agriculture; and

13           (2) is exempt from the overtime provisions of the federal Act.

14           **[(d)] (E)** The wage for overtime may be computed on the basis of each hour over  
15 48 hours that an employee works during 1 workweek:

16           (1) for an employee of a bowling establishment; and

17           (2) for an employee of an institution that:

18           (i) is not a hospital; but

19           (ii) is engaged primarily in the care of individuals who:

20           1. are aged, intellectually disabled, or sick or have a mental  
21 disorder; and

22           2. reside at the institution.

23           **(F) (1) THE WAGE FOR OVERTIME FOR A FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYED BY A**  
24 **GOVERNMENTAL UNIT SHALL BE COMPUTED ON THE BASIS OF EACH HOUR OVER 168**  
25 **HOURS THAT THE FIREFIGHTER WORKS DURING A 28–DAY WORK PERIOD.**

26           **(2) IN CALCULATING HOURS WORKED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF**  
27 **THIS SUBSECTION, THE EMPLOYER:**

28           **(I) SHALL INCLUDE ALL REGULARLY SCHEDULED HOURS; AND**

29           **(II) IF THE FIREFIGHTER USED EARNED OR ACCRUED LEAVE**  
30 **DURING ALL OR PART OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED HOURS, MAY NOT BE**

1 REQUIRED TO INCLUDE EARNED OR ACCRUED LEAVE IN EXCESS OF 42 HOURS PER  
2 WEEK.

3 (3) A GOVERNMENTAL UNIT MAY NOT BE DETERMINED TO HAVE  
4 VIOLATED THIS SECTION IF THE GOVERNMENTAL UNIT:

5 (I) PAYS OVERTIME WAGES USING AN AVERAGE OF:  
6 1. NOT MORE THAN 42 HOURS PER WEEK; AND  
7 2. A WORK PERIOD OF BETWEEN 7 AND 28 DAYS; OR  
8 (II) IS A PARTY TO A FIREFIGHTER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING  
9 AGREEMENT THAT DEFINES A SHIFT AS 42 HOURS PER WEEK.

10 Article – Local Government

11 1-210.

12 (A) EACH COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITY SHALL PROVIDE FOR EACH  
13 FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYED BY THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY:

14 (1) AT THE TIME OF HIRING AND AT THE TIME OF ANY CHANGE OF THE  
15 FIREFIGHTER'S RATE OF PAY, NOTICE OF:

16 (I) THE FIREFIGHTER'S RATE OF PAY;  
17 (II) THE REGULAR PAY PERIODS; AND  
18 (III) THE FIREFIGHTER'S OVERTIME RATE OF PAY; AND

19 (2) FOR EACH PAY PERIOD, A STATEMENT OF THE HOURS WORKED,  
20 GROSS EARNINGS, AND ANY DEDUCTIONS FROM THE GROSS EARNINGS.

21 (B) IF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY DOES NOT PROVIDE PAYROLL  
22 INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION OR WAGES  
23 DUE, THE FIREFIGHTER OR THE FIREFIGHTER'S EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE MAY  
24 INITIATE A GRIEVANCE UNDER THE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED UNDER  
25 ANY APPLICABLE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE OR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING  
26 AGREEMENT.

27 (C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF A  
28 GRIEVANCE IS INITIATED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A FIREFIGHTER  
29 IS ENTITLED TO WAGES AND DAMAGES UNLESS THE WAGE IS WITHHELD AS A RESULT  
30 OF A BONA FIDE DISPUTE.

**(2) IF THE GRIEVANCE WAS FILED:**

2 (I) IN THE FIRST 3 BUSINESS DAYS OF A PAY PERIOD, THE  
3 DAMAGES SHALL START IN THE FOLLOWING REGULAR PAY PERIOD; OR

**(3) THE DAMAGES UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION:**

**(II) SHALL INCREASE PER PAY PERIOD BY 30% OF:**

(III) SHALL CONTINUE UNTIL THE PAY PERIOD WHEN THE MUNICIPALITY PROVIDES THE MISSING WAGES AND DAMAGES TO THE EMPLOYEE

**(IV) MAY NOT EXCEED THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT OF:**

22                           1. THE WAGE DUE FOR A PAY PERIOD FOR WHICH THE  
23 COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY FAILED TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION AS REQUIRED  
24 UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION; OR

## 2. THE MISSING WAGES.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to  
27 apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or  
28 application to any collective bargaining agreements in effect before the effective date of this  
29 Act.

30 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
31 October 1, 2026.