

SENATE BILL 449

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By: **Carroll County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workers' Compensation – Heart Disease and Hypertension Presumption and**
3 **Permanent Partial Disability – Carroll County Correctional Deputies**

4 FOR the purpose of extending the presumption of compensability under the workers'
5 compensation law to include, subject to certain conditions, Carroll County
6 correctional deputies who suffer from heart disease or hypertension resulting in
7 partial disability or death; altering a certain definition of “public safety employee”
8 for the purpose of applying a certain workers' compensation provision relating to
9 permanent partial disability benefits to correctional deputies employed by Carroll
10 County; and generally relating to compensability of Carroll County correctional
11 deputies under the workers' compensation law.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Labor and Employment
14 Section 9–503(b) and (e) and 9–628(a)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2025 Replacement Volume)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
18 Article – Labor and Employment
19 Section 9–628(h) and 9–629
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2025 Replacement Volume)

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

24 **Article – Labor and Employment**

25 9–503.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(b) (1) A paid police officer employed by an airport authority, a county, the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission, a municipality, or the State, a deputy sheriff of Montgomery County, or, subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a deputy sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County detention officer, deputy sheriff of Baltimore City, **CARROLL COUNTY CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY**, Montgomery County correctional officer, Prince George’s County deputy sheriff, Prince George’s County correctional officer, or deputy sheriff of Allegany County is presumed to be suffering from an occupational disease that was suffered in the line of duty and is compensable under this title if:

(i) the police officer, deputy sheriff, or correctional officer is suffering from heart disease or hypertension; and

(ii) the heart disease or hypertension results in partial or total disability or death.

(2) (i) A deputy sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County detention officer, deputy sheriff of Baltimore City, **CARROLL COUNTY CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY**, Montgomery County correctional officer, Prince George’s County deputy sheriff, or Prince George’s County correctional officer is entitled to the presumption under this subsection only to the extent that the individual suffers from heart disease or hypertension that is more severe than the individual’s heart disease or hypertension condition existing prior to the individual’s employment as a deputy sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County detention officer, deputy sheriff of Baltimore City, **CARROLL COUNTY CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY**, Montgomery County correctional officer, Prince George’s County deputy sheriff, or Prince George’s County correctional officer.

(ii) To be eligible for the presumption under this subsection, a deputy sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County detention officer, deputy sheriff of Baltimore City, **CARROLL COUNTY CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY**, Montgomery County correctional officer, Prince George’s County deputy sheriff, or Prince George’s County correctional officer, as a condition of employment, shall submit to a medical examination to determine any heart disease or hypertension condition existing prior to the individual’s employment as a deputy sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County detention officer, deputy sheriff of Baltimore City, **CARROLL COUNTY CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY**, Montgomery County correctional officer, Prince George’s County deputy sheriff, or Prince George’s County correctional officer.

(e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, any paid firefighter, paid fire fighting instructor, sworn member of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, paid police officer, forest ranger, park ranger, wildlife ranger, paid law enforcement employee of the Department of Natural Resources, deputy sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County detention officer, park police officer of the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission, deputy sheriff of Montgomery County, deputy sheriff of Baltimore City, **CARROLL COUNTY CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY**, Montgomery County correctional officer, deputy sheriff of Prince George’s County, or Prince

George's County correctional officer who is eligible for benefits under subsection (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this section or the dependents of those individuals shall receive the benefits in addition to any benefits that the individual or the dependents of the individual are entitled to receive under the retirement system in which the individual was a participant at the time of the claim.

(2) The benefits received under this title shall be adjusted so that the weekly total of those benefits and retirement benefits does not exceed the weekly salary that was paid to an individual specified under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Labor and Employment

9–628.

(a) In this section, “public safety employee” means:

(1) a firefighter, fire fighting instructor, or paramedic employed by:

(i) a municipal corporation;

(ii) a county;

(iii) the State;

(iv) the State Airport Authority; or

(v) a fire control district;

(2) a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance, rescue, or advanced life support worker who is a covered employee under § 9–234 of this title and who provides volunteer fire or rescue services to:

(i) a municipal corporation;

(ii) a county;

(iii) the State;

(iv) the State Airport Authority; or

(v) a fire control district;

(3) a police officer employed by:

- 1 (i) a municipal corporation;
- 2 (ii) a county;
- 3 (iii) the State;
- 4 (iv) the State Airport Authority;
- 5 (v) the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission;
- 6 or
- 7 (vi) the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority;
- 8 (4) a Prince George’s County deputy sheriff or correctional officer;
- 9 (5) a Montgomery County deputy sheriff or correctional officer;
- 10 (6) an Allegany County deputy sheriff;
- 11 (7) a Howard County deputy sheriff;
- 12 (8) an Anne Arundel County deputy sheriff or detention officer;
- 13 (9) a Baltimore County correctional officer or detention officer;
- 14 (10) a Baltimore County deputy sheriff, but only when the deputy sheriff
- 15 sustains an accidental personal injury that arises out of and in the course and scope of
- 16 performing duties directly related to:
- 17 (i) courthouse security;
- 18 (ii) prisoner transportation;
- 19 (iii) service of warrants;
- 20 (iv) personnel management; or
- 21 (v) other administrative duties;
- 22 (11) a State correctional officer;
- 23 (12) a Baltimore City deputy sheriff; [or]
- 24 (13) a Harford County deputy sheriff, correctional officer, or detention
- 25 officer; OR
- 26 **(14) A CARROLL COUNTY CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY.**

(h) If a public safety employee is awarded compensation for less than 75 weeks, the employer or its insurer shall pay the public safety employee compensation at the rate set for an award of compensation for a period greater than or equal to 75 weeks but less than 250 weeks under § 9–629 of this subtitle.

9–629.

If a covered employee is awarded compensation for a period equal to or greater than 75 weeks but less than 250 weeks, the employer or its insurer shall pay the covered employee weekly compensation that equals two-thirds of the average weekly wage of the covered employee but does not exceed one-third of the State average weekly wage.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding the provisions of § 9–503(b)(2) of the Labor and Employment Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, a Carroll County correctional deputy who is employed on or before September 30, 2026:

(1) as a condition of continued employment shall provide to the Carroll County Sheriff's Office on or before December 31, 2026, a copy of a medical report disclosing and describing any existing heart disease or hypertension from which the correctional deputy may be suffering; and

(2) is entitled to the presumption under § 9–503(b) of the Labor and Employment Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, only to the extent that the individual suffers from heart disease or hypertension that is more severe than the individual's heart disease or hypertension condition existing as of the date of the medical report provided under item (1) of this section.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall be construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to any claims arising from events occurring before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.