

# SENATE BILL 449

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By: Carroll County Senators

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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## 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.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

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

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

11 **Article – Labor and Employment**

12 9–628.

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

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

15 (i) a municipal corporation;

16 (ii) a county;

17 (iii) the State;

18 (iv) the State Airport Authority; or

19 (v) a fire control district;

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

23 (i) a municipal corporation;

24 (ii) a county;

25 (iii) the State;

26 (iv) the State Airport Authority; or

27 (v) a fire control district;

28 (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.**

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

5       9–629.

6       If a covered employee is awarded compensation for a period equal to or greater than  
7 75 weeks but less than 250 weeks, the employer or its insurer shall pay the covered  
8 employee weekly compensation that equals two–thirds of the average weekly wage of the  
9 covered employee but does not exceed one–third of the State average weekly wage.

10       SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding the  
11 provisions of § 9–503(b)(2) of the Labor and Employment Article, as enacted by Section 1 of  
12 this Act, a Carroll County correctional deputy who is employed on or before September 30,  
13 2026:

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

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

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

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