



Testimony offered on behalf of:
THE GARRETT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

IN SUPPORT OF:
HB 908 – Labor and Employment – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act - Verification

Economic Matters Committee
February 25, 2020

On behalf of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, representing 600 member organizations in Western Maryland, I write to express our support of **HB 908 – Labor and Employment – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act - Verification**.

Now that the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act has been in effect for more than a year, employers have had the opportunity to analyze the impacts of the new law. Unfortunately, many businesses are seeing abuses of the law and it is not being used for the original intent. Specifically, seasonal employees who work for more than 106 days but less than 121 days begin earning Sick and Safe Leave (SSL) after 106 days. Many of those employees are then using SSL as soon as they have earned the hours but they are using SSL to simply take a paid time off. This creates staffing challenges for the employers that are very busy during the peak times with seasonal workers are employed. Requiring verification of the reason for using SSL by those seasonal employees will reduce the abuse and preserve the intent of the law.

The Chamber respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE committee report on HB 908**.

Sincerely,

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