



SB 62
Labor and Employment – Heightened Security Interest Locations (Secure Maryland Wage Act)
Finance Committee
Position: Oppose unless amended

Maryland AGC, the Maryland Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, provides professional education, business development, and advocacy for commercial construction companies and vendors, both open shop and union. AGC of America is the nation’s largest and oldest trade association for the construction industry. AGC of America represents more than 26,000 firms, including over 6,500 of America’s leading general contractors, and over 9,000 specialty-contracting firms, all through a nationwide network of chapters. Maryland AGC opposes SB 62 in its current form and respectfully urges the bill be amended to address concerns set forth below.

SB 62 addresses wages for workers at three specified locations: BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, the Port of Baltimore and Pennsylvania Station in Baltimore City. The bill provides that an employer must pay a covered employee the wages or combination of wages and benefits for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2021, and each subsequent 12-month period, that is at least the combined amount of the wage and fringe benefit rate in effect on September 1 of the preceding year for the Guard 1 Classification for the applicable county established under specified provisions of the federal McNamara-O’Hara Service Contract Act of 1965 (SCA).

In §3-1501(b), SB 62 defines employee broadly, so that all types of workers come within the ambit of the bill. Thus, SB 62 applies to work for both public and private owners. This is not consistent with the SCA, which applies only to work for federal agencies and specifically excludes contracts for construction, alteration and/or repair, including painting and decorating of public buildings or public works. SB 62 presents two different sets of issues for construction companies. First, workers on Maryland public work projects must be paid according to the Maryland Prevailing Wage law or the federal Davis-Bacon Act, but SB 62 does not make a distinction and creates a conflict between the proposed Secure Maryland Wage Act and these existing laws.

A different issue is presented by construction work performed at one of the specified locations for a private interest rather than a public owner, for example, one of the freight carriers at BWI or a motor carrier at the Port of Baltimore. The wages and benefits required by SB 62 would adversely affect especially some small contractors, particularly drywall and landscaping contractors. SB 62 would require some of a contractor’s employees to receive wages and benefits that other employees performing the same kind of work but at a different location would not receive. This is a prescription for disgruntled employees and workplace friction, to say nothing of the administrative burden and cost of tracking and implementing such a bifurcated system. The cure, consistent with the SCA, is to exempt all construction work from SB 62.

Accordingly, Maryland AGC respectfully urges the Committee to amend SB 62 to exclude construction work and construction related services, as defined in the State Finance and Procurement Article, §11-101(e) and (f), respectively. An amendment to that effect is attached to this testimony. Without such an amendment, Maryland AGC opposes SB 62 and respectfully requests an unfavorable report.

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Lobbyist for Maryland AGC

SENATE BILL 62
First Reading File Bill

Amendment No. 1:

On page 4, in the blank line immediately following line 12, insert "**(E) EMPLOYER DOES NOT INCLUDE AN EMPLOYER WHO PROVIDES "CONSTRUCTION" OR "CONSTRUCTION RELATED SERVICES" AS DEFINED IN THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, §11-101(E) AND (F), RESPECTIVELY.**" and renumber "E" and "F" to be "F" and "G", respectively.