



**Maryland Joint
Legislative Committee**

February 20, 2020

The Voice of Merit Construction

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TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE
FROM: ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS
RE: S.B. 434- LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT- OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH- HEAT STRESS STANDARDS
POSITION: OPPOSE

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) opposes S.B. 434 which is before you today for consideration. The bill would require an employer to develop, implement, and maintain an effective excessive heat-related illness prevention plan for employees.

ABC certainly supports the intent of the bill and that can be demonstrated by the contractors doing this work already have a comprehensive plan for dealing with excessive heat situations to make sure their employees are safe and aware of the consequences that may result from working in these conditions. Trying to draft legislation based on something as unpredictable as the weather is challenging to say the least. One of the provisions in the bill is to have contractors hire additional employees as a means of giving workers breaks and less exposure. At the same time, the bill calls for a training period prior to a worker going on the job site. Neither of these will work in the real world.

Unfortunately, there are too many unanswered questions remaining as to how portions of this bill are going to be implemented and what measures will be used to make many of these evaluations and decisions. The Commissioner is required to adopt regulations on or before October 1, 2022. Until these regulations are available, it will be next to impossible for the contractor to comply with many provisions contained in the bill.

For these reasons, ABC recommends an unfavorable report on S.B. 434.

Robert Zinsmeister, Director
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