



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL
EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

Local Office
615 Frederick Rd
Catonsville Maryland 21230

SB 434 - Labor and Employment - Occupational Safety and Health - Heat Stress Standards
Thursday, February 20th, 2020

Senate Finance Committee

FAVORABLE

John H. Clark, AFSCME Local 434 Executive Board Member

Senator Kelley & Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am now in my eleventh year as a Baltimore County Public Schools bus driver. I have worked during the summer all eleven of those years. As it's been well documented, the temperature got hotter with each passing summer. For ten of those eleven years, I was behind the wheel of a bus that had no air conditioning at all. I would get on my bus in the morning dry as a bone, and by mid-day, my clothes would be soaking wet from all the sweating I did (and that was with all of the windows fully open). The afternoon was even worse. The only busses that had air conditioning units on them were the busses that were reserved for special needs runs and there weren't many of those available. These working conditions are not only uncomfortable and unhealthy for the drivers, but for the students as well. There has been a shortage of drivers in my workplace for quite a few years now, especially during the summer months, and the biggest reason is because of the working conditions we have to endure.

Please approve this Bill, give our employees the protection they deserve.

Thank you again for your considerations,

John H. Clark
AFSCME Local 434 Executive Board Member