



Maryland Senate – Finance Committee

Chair: Delores G. Kelley

Vice Chair: Brian J. Feldman

Senate Bill 434 – Labor & Employment – Occupational Safety & Health – Heat Stress Standards.

Position: Informational No Position.

The Baltimore DC Metro Trades Council recognizes the hazards of heat stress and heat related illnesses. As construction workers we work in every element from cold and snow to rain and heat. In buildings and structures where there is no movement of air of any kind. Ground temperatures may be 90 degrees but 10, 15 or 20 stories up in a closed building it can be well over 100 degrees. The same is true of cold weather where it can be 25 degrees at ground level but go up 100 feet to work between concrete floors open to the wind with no sunlight and the wind chill can be zero degrees. Due to these harsh conditions we have developed language within our collective bargaining agreements to provide water that has to be potable, clean and cold within a reasonable distance for access to all workers. Change sheds are provided to reduce over exposure to the elements. All safety precautions are followed and enforced by the use weekly safety “Tool Box” talks and full-time safety officers that walk the projects to ensure the safety procedures and the use of personal protective equipment “PPE” are in use. We believe that every precaution should be taken to prevent accidents and illness on the job site. Unionization and collective bargaining provide the best protections for working men and women. The collective bargaining agreement will improve job conditions to minimize hazards for employees and increase production for employers.

Thank you.

Jeffry Guido – Director

(E) jguido@bdcbt.org (O) 301-909-1071 (C) 240-687-5195

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