

February 20, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chair, Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3E
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 434 (Labor and Employment - Occupational Safety and Health - Heat Stress Standards)

Dear Chairwoman Kelley:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, strongly opposes Senate Bill 434 (Labor and Employment - Occupational Safety and Health - Heat Stress Standards).

This measure requires the Commissioner of Labor to adopt regulations that provide for written heat stress plans that include cold water, rest breaks in shade, limiting the amount of time in heat, postponing tasks, rotating employees, and record keeping.

Though MBIA appreciates the intent to protect workers' health and safety, implementing these new regulations would be very expensive, particularly for the small and locally-owned businesses that make up a large percentage of our industry. Furthermore, many businesses already implement sufficient workplace safety policies compliant with federal standards. Additional requirements are unnecessary and costly.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Senate Finance Committee Members