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Patrick Moran - President

Testimony
SB 319 – Vehicle Laws – Move Over Safety Monitoring System - Authorization
Judicial Proceedings
February 6, 2020
Support with Amendments

AFSCME Council 3, the union representing employees of the State Highway Administration and the MD Transportation Authority who are involved in servicing Maryland highways, was and remains a strong supporter of the original “Move Over” legislation enacted in 2018. Today we offer our support of SB 319, which strengthens “Move Over” by integrating a safety monitoring system for the purpose of recording “Move Over” violations.

While we support the spirit of this legislation, we would request an amendment that, at the least, integrates the referenced safety monitoring system on SHA and MDTA vehicles. State highway workers have among the highest (if not the highest) mortality rates of state jobs. Just as an example, 5 employees have been killed in the line of duty since 2007:

SHA Facility Maintenance Tech IV June 26, 2007

MDTA Facility Maintenance Tech III April 9, 2008

SHA Facility Maintenance Tech III November 14, 2013

MDTA Facility Maintenance Tech II May 5, 2015

MDTA Facility Maintenance Tech May 28, 2015

In addition, there are highway workers injured on Maryland highways by careless drivers on a regular basis. These sacrifices are avoidable, but our experience is that drivers have not embraced the responsibilities that come with this law. Strengthening enforcement mechanisms is a wise step toward ensuring safety on our roads.

We ask the committee to approve SB 319 with our requested amendments.

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An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.
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