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Patrick Moran - President

Testimony
HB 133 – State Finance and Procurement - Appropriation Reductions
(Board of Public Works Budget Reduction Clarification Act)
Appropriations
January 20, 2021
Support

AFSCME Council 3 supports HB 133. This legislation would provide detail and clarity to the Board of Public Works' power to reduce existing appropriations, while expanding the time and opportunity for Marylanders to be informed and react to the proposed reductions in existing appropriations.

This past summer, in the midst of a perceived budget crisis, the Department of Budget & Management put forward proposed cuts totaling over 600 million dollars. With only a few days to react to the specifics of these proposals, program stakeholders and community leaders in Maryland had little time to understand and react. Thankfully, the BPW decided to hold off the draconian measures, which in turn allowed more time to analyze and effectively react to the proposals by stakeholders.

By clarifying that the up to 25% reductions apply to the full fiscal year – as opposed to each time a reduction is proposed before the BPW – ensures that agencies will not be gutted. By clarifying that the up to 25% reductions apply to line items – and not entire agencies – ensures programs funded by the General Assembly are not indiscriminately eliminated. And extending the amount of time for public notice from three to ten business days allows Marylanders – the ultimate stakeholders of state governance – the opportunity to make their voices heard.

AFSCME Council 3 asks for a favorable report of this legislation.

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