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Patrick Moran - President

Testimony
HB 56 – Labor and Employment –
Leave with Pay – Bereavement Leave
Support

AFSCME Council 3 supports HB 56. This legislation amends the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act that went into effect in 2018 to include bereavement leave. Currently, a state employee who experiences a death in their immediate family can have up to 5 days of sick leave, with 3 of these days charged as bereavement leave with pay. A maximum of one day is charged for other relatives, except cousins. HB 56 would allow state employees to use the safe and sick leave for the death of an immediate family member. Many Marylanders have been impacted by the loss of a loved one to COVID-19. This timely legislation allows those grieving a few days of leave with pay.

HB 56 is a good bill. Allowing employees, the opportunity to use paid leave for the purposes of a death in the employee's immediate family is the right thing to do. We urge the committee to provide a favorable report on HB 56.

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