



TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

The White Marlin Capital of the World

February 3, 2021

TESTIMONY OFFERED ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

Re: House Bill 581 - Labor and Employment - Employment Standards During an Emergency (Maryland Essential Workers' Protection Act)

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Town of Ocean City, I would like to express our opposition of House Bill 0581.

Although we understand the intent of this legislation, the costs of this bill would be devastating to Maryland's job creators, who are already struggling with a global pandemic and compounding financial implications of other state mandates like increased minimum wage and paid sick and safe leave. Maryland's employers cannot reasonably be expected to comply with the broad and unwell defined mandates contained within House Bill 0581, especially when they continue to overcome the operational and economic implications of COVID-19.

The Maryland Essential Workers' Protection Act includes a \$3 per hour increase for any hourly employee deemed "essential" that would have to be back paid dating to the start of March 2020 and moving forward until the pandemic is no longer a state of emergency. For a small business of 10 hourly employees this back pay can amount in up to \$100,000 just in the back pay alone. These numbers are simply not achievable if a business is to stay open. We respect and support our local businesses but the Maryland Essential Workers' Protection Act would detrimentally hurt our businesses even more.

The Town of Ocean City respectfully requests that you oppose House Bill 0581, Labor and Employment - Employment Standards During an Emergency (Maryland Essential Workers' Protection Act).

Sincerely,

Rick Meehan
Mayor

MAYOR
RICHARD W. MEEHAN

CITY COUNCIL

MATTHEW M. JAMES
President

ANTHONY J. DELUCA
Secretary

PETER S. BUAS
JOHN F. GEHRIG, JR.
J. FRANKLIN KNIGHT
LLOYD MARTIN
MARK L. PADDACK

CITY MANAGER
DOUGLAS R. MILLER

CITY CLERK
DIANA L. CHAVIS, CMC

www.oceancitymd.gov

P.O. BOX 158 • OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND • 21843-0158



City Hall – (410) 289-8221 • FAX – (410) 289-8703