



Government Relations Committee Meeting
Cecil County Chamber of Commerce
Elkton, Maryland

To: Senate Finance Committee

Purpose: Oppose House Bill 1326 – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Revisions and Public Health Emergency Leave

February 26, 2021

Dear Chairman Davis and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

On behalf of the four hundred and fifty Cecil County Chamber members who represent over fifteen thousand employees we are writing to you to express our **oppose for HB 1326**.

If enacted, HB 1326 would:

- Remove the agricultural and temp worker exemption from the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act
- Expand the definition of a family member to include someone whose ***“close association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship”***
- Require an employer to provide an ***additional 14 business days***, or 112 hours, of new paid sick and safe leave for full time employees during a declared public health emergency, and an equivalent amount of leave for part time employees
- Require an employer to provide said leave regardless of how long an employee has been employed with them
- Allows an employer to require advance notice for leave “if practicable”, but does not allow an employer to require documentation

Maryland’s job creators cannot reasonably be expected to comply with the expanded mandates contained within HB 1326, especially now, as they struggle to juggle previously passed employer mandates and the operational and economic implications of COVID-19.

For these and many more unstated reasons we ask you for an **unfavorable report on House Bill 1326**.

Please contact us if we can be of further assistance on this proposed legislation. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Members of Cecil County Chamber Government Relations Committee

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