

BRIAN E. FROSH
Attorney General



ELIZABETH F. HARRIS
Chief Deputy Attorney General

CAROLYN QUATTROCKI
Deputy Attorney General

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE NO.

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

410-576-6584

February 9, 2021

TO: The Honorable Dereck E. Davis
Chair, Economic Matters Committee

FROM: The Office of the Attorney General

RE: HB0685 – Labor and Employment – Secure Maryland Wage Act – **Support**

The Office of the Attorney General urges the Economic Matters Committee to favorably report HB 685, Delegate Valderrama's legislation to require that employees who are employed to work at a heightened security interest location be paid "not less than the combined amount of the wage and fringe benefit rate in effect" the prior year for "Guard I classification for the applicable county established by the United States Secretary of Labor under §§ 6701 through 6707 of the Federal McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act of 1965." The bill defines "heightened security interest locations" to include the BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, Pennsylvania Station in Baltimore, or the Port of Baltimore.

Workers employed in heightened security interest locations should be compensated commensurate with the risks they take to perform their duties.¹ House Bill 685 recognizes that fundamental fact and requires employees stationed 50 percent or more at three locations in Maryland be paid overtime and a fair wage.

For all of the foregoing reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 685.

cc: Committee Members

¹ See Transcript of the conversation with Wharton legal studies and business ethics professor Robert Hughes by WHARTON SCH. OF THE UNIV. OF PENN., *It's a Dangerous Job – but Does Someone Have to Do It?*, (Apr. 1, 2019), <https://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article/dangerous-jobs-ethics/> (“[R]isks that are great enough that it’s necessary to pay people more — either to compensate them fairly for those risks, or as an inducement to get them to take the job”).