

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0651.pdf

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JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Director of Government Affairs

JOEL N. BELLER
Deputy Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: **SB 651**

TITLE: Baltimore County - Workers' Compensation - Permanent Partial Disability - Detention and Correctional Officers

SPONSOR: Senator Klausmeier

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 23, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 651 – Baltimore County - Workers' Compensation - Permanent Partial Disability - Detention and Correctional Officers. This bill enhances workers' compensation benefits, specifically compensable permanent partial disability of less than 75 weeks, for Baltimore County correctional officers.

Baltimore County prioritizes supporting legislation that improves labor conditions to those who serve the community. Correctional officers often work under conditions that can pose risks to their lives and health. When a correctional officer is injured, resulting in a permanent partial disability, that officer is owed compensation. This should reflect not only the current and future costs of the injury itself, but the service the officer was providing the community at the time of the incident.

All workers deserve the opportunity to live comfortably and to know that at the end of the day, they will be able to put food on their family's table without worrying whether an accident will put them in a state of irreparable financial ruin. SB 651 ensures for Baltimore County's correctional officers that they will be compensated should they incur a devastating injury.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 651. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.

SB 651 - WC - PPD - Detention and Correctional Off

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**SB 651 – Baltimore County Workers’ Compensation – Permanent Partial Disability –
Detention and Correctional Officers
Senate Finance Committee
February 23, 2021**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support SB 651 – Baltimore County Workers’ Compensation – Permanent Partial Disability – Detention and Correctional Officers. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

Detention and Correctional Officers (CO) face workplace safety issues that most of us will never understand, let alone ever must face in our daily lives. Workplace violence is a very real threat to them, and it is one of the most dangerous jobs in local government.

SB 651 adds Baltimore County Detention and Correctional Officers to the list of local government workers already covered for permanent partial disability. Prince George’s, Montgomery, and Anne Arundel COs are already covered, and in Baltimore County so are the deputy sheriffs. Adding the COs in Baltimore County would provide them with the same protection that is held by those in covered counties, knowing they will have some level of recompense in the case of an injury on the job.

We cannot truly fathom the work that these COs do for the public, day in and day out. However, we can listen to their requests, and honor their service, by passing SB 651. We can provide these essential workers with a level of security that already exists in other jurisdictions in the State.

We urge a favorable vote on SB 651.

SB 651 FIN LoS.pdf

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Position: FAV

KATHERINE KLAUSMEIER
Legislative District 8
Baltimore County

—
PRESIDENT PRO TEM EMERITUS

—
Finance Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

—
Chair

Baltimore County Senate Delegation



The Senate of Maryland

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February 19, 2021

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman Kelley,

Please be advised that the Baltimore County Senate Delegation has given a Favorable Recommendation to **SB 651 – Baltimore County – Workers’ Compensation – Permanent Partial Disability – Detention and Correctional Officers.**

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Klausmeier".

Kathy Klausmeier
Chair, Baltimore County Senate Delegation

Written SB 651 Correctional Officers.pdf

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Marietta English
PRESIDENT

Kenya Campbell
SECRETARY-TREASURER

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland Senate Finance Committee
SB 651 - Baltimore County - Workers' Compensation –
Permanent Partial Disability - Detention and Correctional Officers
February 23, 2021**

SUPPORT

Chair Kelley and members of the committee. On behalf of the American Federation of Teachers - Maryland (AFT-Maryland), which represents more than 20,000 state, county and municipal workers across Maryland, we ask for a favorable report on SB 651.

This bill would provide enhanced workers' compensation benefits for a Baltimore County correctional and detention officers for permanent and partial disability on the job. It would allow the dedicated correctional officers of Baltimore County to join their fellow police officers and firefighters in receiving better workplace injury compensation.

In 2018, Governor Hogan signed HB 205 into law. It allowed county correctional officers to join police officers and firefighters in receiving enhanced compensation for workplace injuries. So far, Allegany, Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince Georges Counties' correctional and detention officers have received the enhanced benefits.

Correctional and detention officers are exposed to unique workplace hazards within a controlled prison environment. Of all U.S. workers, correctional officers have one of the highest rates of work-related injuries.¹

Security and stability in prisons is critical to protect the public and ensure the safety of inmates. This responsibility falls heavily on the shoulders of front-line correctional and detention officers. They must maintain peaceful order within facilities and between inmates with histories of mental illness, substance abuse and violence, and must routinely put themselves in harm's way. For these reasons, we ask the committee for a favorable report on SB 651. Thank you.

Marietta English
President

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses requiring days away from work. 2011 Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/osh2.nr0.htm>.

SB651 Workers Compensation for Baltimore County Co

Uploaded by: Ripley, John

Position: FAV



BALTIMORE COUNTY
FEDERATION OF
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
AFT / AFL - CIO / BCFPE Local #4883

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February 23, 2021

RE: FAVORABLE- SB651: Workers Compensation-Permanent Partial Disability - Baltimore County Detention and Correctional Officers.

Honorable Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is John Ripley and I am the President of The Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees who represents approximately 500 active and retired Correctional Officers in Baltimore County. Over the years I have witnessed these hard-working men and women perform countless acts of sacrifice and bravery. As a Correctional Officers these men and women perform the difficult tasks that a police officer, paramedic and firefighter does daily. It is because of this that in 2018 Governor Hogan and lawmakers deservingly allowed Maryland State, Prince Georges County, Montgomery County, Allegany County, Howard County and Anne Arundel County Correctional Officers to join Police Officers and Firefighters in receiving better workplace injury compensation. In 2020 HB685 also passed to now including Harford County Correctional Officers to the same injury compensation plan. Now in 2021 SB651 would finally allow our dedicated Correctional Officers of Baltimore County to be added to this benefit. Correctional Officers have amongst the highest rates of injuries and illnesses, often resulting from their daily and dangerous contact with inmates. This bill would provide *EQUAL* Workers' Compensation benefits for the Correctional Officers who become ill or are injured on the job, while working for the Baltimore County Department of Corrections, just like our other Public Safety Partners.

Because of this I urge you to support SB651. This is much needed for our dedicated Correctional Officers of Baltimore County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

President John Ripley

Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees Local #4883