

LiUNA BWLDC (Rick Binetti) testimony hb890 support

Uploaded by: binetti, rick

Position: FAV



Chairman Dereck Davis
Vice-Chair Kathleen Dumais
Members
House Economic Matters Committee
241 House Ofc Bldg.
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 18, 2021

HB 890 – Natural Gas – Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement – Surcharge and Plans

Position – Favorable

Chairman Davis and members of the Committee, my name is Rick Binetti, representing LiUNA's Baltimore Washington Laborers' District Council. We represent more than 7,400 members in the Maryland, D.C. and Virginia region; two-thirds of whom are Maryland residents and in favor of House Bill 890.

Building, repairing and maintaining natural gas infrastructure with a skilled workforce protects Maryland's communities, environment, and improves overall energy distribution safety. Today, utility companies in Maryland today are contracting out large portions of their construction work. At any given time, up to 1,000 of our members work on utility construction projects for contractors employed by Washington Gas, BGE and Pepco.

For example, BGE also uses close to 1,000 contracted-out workers to help maintain its infrastructure. And virtually all of Washington Gas's pipe replacement projects are performed by contractors. LiUNA Locals 11 and 710 work with many of these contractors to recruit and train both apprentices, and journeyman to do this work. STRIDE is critical to this mission. When this funding is used to help ensure there is a constant pipeline of well-trained utility construction workers to do this work, Maryland's economy benefits.

Maryland's environment benefits as well. As we continue toward meeting greenhouse reduction requirements and transitioning away from using coal to produce energy at any level, Maryland will face energy shortages at some point. Because it is so much cleaner than coal, natural gas will help fill that gap, and reduce our carbon emissions, as we continue to work through how to scale up solar, wind and geothermal to industrial levels. As a compliment to that, STRIDE ensures that the natural gas distribution systems built by local utilities in our state will remain the cleanest, the most modern, safe, reliable and affordable energy delivery system for Maryland's families and businesses.

Along with this testimony I am including a link to a Clean Power Progress fact sheet for Maryland which provides an overview of Maryland energy future over the next ten years:

<http://cleanpowerprogress.org/?state=Maryland>

We urge for a favorable report on HB 890. Thank you.

SB653 Support - MD healthy working families -Appli

Uploaded by: Demchuk, Pete

Position: FAV

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building Trades Council — AFL-CIO

Baltimore Port Council

Baltimore Metro Council — AFL-CIO

Central MD Labor Council — AFL-CIO

Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO

Maryland State - D.C. — AFL-CIO

National Safety Council



AFL-CIO-CLC

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

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Written Testimony of

Peter Demchuk, Business Manager, IBEW, LOCAL 24

Before the

Senate Finance Committee on

SB – 653 -Labor and Employment – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act- Application

SUPPORT

February 23, 2021

Dear Madame Chair Kelley, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony supporting Senate Bill 653.

For the record, my name is Peter Demchuk. I am a 41-year member, and the Business Manager, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 24, located in Baltimore. Additionally, I am a lifelong resident of Maryland currently residing in District 7 of Baltimore County.

The out-break of Covid-19 brings to light the importance of the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act, while construction workers are considered essential personnel and reported to work every day thru the pandemic. Most people don't understand the condition that construction workers have on jobsites. The rest room is a "portable outhouse" that is shared by the entire job site, rarely is there running water to wash your hands. If someone gets sick typically it will spread thru the job site, which led to many job sites closing because of a Covid-19 outbreak. The question is do risk missing a day's pay and financial hardship or expose the job site to what ailment you may have!

When I started in the trade years ago jobs would shut down during the winter, now they wrap the exterior in plastic, and put in a few heaters to keep the temperature above freezing and keep on building! Just another example of a Petri dish waiting for a virus to take hold and grow like wild fire.

So please protect our essential workers that are building hospitals, our water treatment facilities and other buildings that allow us to stay healthy, our house to stay warm, our drinking water to flow and our toilets to flush.

This is why I'm asking you to give SB 653 a favorable report.

Thank you,



Peter P. Demchuk

PPD:clr
AFL-CIO
OPEIU # 2

SB 653 - Labor and Employment - Healthy Working Fa

Uploaded by: Siri, Michelle

Position: FAV

BILL NO: Senate Bill 653
TITLE: Labor and Employment – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Application
COMMITTEE: Finance
HEARING DATE: February 25, 2021
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

In 2017 the Legislature passed The Maryland Healthy Working Families Act (“the Act”). The Act finally grants workers the right to earn safe and sick leave so that they no longer must choose between their jobs and their health and safety. After overcoming several hurdles, including the Governor’s veto, the bill went into law and into effect in February 2018. Now, amidst a global pandemic, the need for safe and sick leave is more important than ever, and countless employees, businesses, and families have benefited from employees being able to take time off when sick, rather than spread illness throughout the workplace. Senate Bill 653 proposes a modest expansion of the Act, by removing an exemption for employees within the construction industry.

The Women’s Law Center whole-heartedly supported the Act because it provides a reasonable and comprehensive approach to ensuring an important benefit that protects the health and safety of families, workers, and the community. Of particular importance to the Women’s Law Center are the provisions of the Act regarding “Safe Leave”. These provisions allow an employee to use earned leave days to deal with medical, psychological or legal issues arising from domestic violence. As one in four women is the victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, it is imperative that survivors be able to get treatment for an injury or initiate legal proceedings without fearing they will lose their jobs if they take time off. This applies to all workers – regardless of their sector. The need is particularly acute during the pandemic, when domestic violence has increased due to social isolation and economic stressors¹.

The ability to have legal representation and/or to go to court to obtain a protective order can have a profound effect on a victim’s ability to leave an abuser and optimize their safety. But in order to do those things, the victim must first be able to take the time to make those appointments. However, financial insecurity is one of the most common reasons women stay with their abusers, and it should be no surprise to learn that taking unpaid leave to appear at court, or to make appointments with counselors or lawyers, is a financial burden too many of our clients are unable to bare.

A survey of American employees found that 44% of full-time employed adults personally experienced domestic violence’s effect in their workplaces², while up to half of employed

¹ Covid-19 and Domestic Violence: An Indirect Path to Social and Economic Crisis, Journal of Family Violence, July 28, 2020, Amalsh Sharma and Sourav Bikash Borah, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7386835/>

² Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence, http://www.caepv.org/getinfo/facts_stats.php?factsec=3

victims of DV report that they lost their jobs in part due to DV³. In addition, as many as 96% experience problems at work due to abuse, 56% are late to work, 28% leave work early, 54% miss entire days of work⁴, and 47% were specifically prevented from working by the abuser⁵. At the same time, 65% of companies in this country do not have a formal workplace domestic violence prevention policy⁶, and the vast majority do not already provide leave specifically designated for victims of domestic violence. Domestic Violence has a clear and definite impact on the economy and on the Maryland workforce.

The Act allows victims to address these important issues that preserve their safety without risking job security. It ensures women do not have to weigh physical health against economic stability because paid sick and safe leave will be available to them. This includes employees within the construction industry, who deserve the same safety and security provisions as other workers.

Therefore, the Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. urges an favorable report on Senate Bill 653.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, membership organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women. It advocates for the rights of women through legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve systemic change. The Women's Law Center operates two hotlines, Protection Order Advocacy and Representation Projects in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Carroll County, and the statewide Collateral Legal Assistance for Survivors and Multi-Ethnic Domestic Violence Projects.

³ Questions and Answers about DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE WORKPLACE, Sloane Work and Family Research Network, 2008,

<https://workfamily.sas.upenn.edu/sites/workfamily.sas.upenn.edu/files/imported/pdfs/DV.pdf>

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Judith McFarlane et al, Indicators of Intimate Partner Violence in Women's Employment, 48 Am. Assoc. Occupational Health Nurses J. 217 (May 2000); Employment Law and Domestic Violence, A Practitioner's Guide, American Bar Association, Commission on Domestic Violence, Julie Goldscheid and Robin Runge, (2009)

⁶ The Society for Human Resource Management, *When Domestic Violence Comes to Work*, 2013

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SB0653-623828-01.pdf

Uploaded by: Klausmeier, Katherine

Position: FWA



SB0653/623828/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

22 FEB 21
10:50:25

BY: Senator Klausmeier
(To be offered in the Finance Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 653
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 3, strike “repealing the exemption” and substitute “altering the employees in the construction industry who are exempt”; strike beginning with “for” in line 4 down through “agreement” in line 5; and in line 5, strike “making a conforming change;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in line 17, strike “OR”; in lines 18 and 22, in each instance, strike the bracket; in line 18, after “industry” insert “;

(II) IS NOT A CONSTRUCTION LABORER”;

and in line 19, strike “(ii)” and substitute “**(III)**”.

On page 2, in lines 5, 13, and 14, in each instance, strike the bracket; and in line 14, strike “**(B)**”.

SB 653 Maryland Healthy Working Families Act - App

Uploaded by: Johnson, Korey

Position: UNF

JOTF JOB OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE

Advocating better skills, jobs, and incomes

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF SENATE BILL 653:

Labor and Employment – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Applicability

TO: Hon. Chair Delores G. Kelley, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee
FROM: Korey Johnson, Esq., Senior Policy Research Analyst – Job Opportunities Task Force
DATE: February 25, 2021

The Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF) is an independent, nonprofit organization that develops and advocates policies and programs to increase the skills, job opportunities, and incomes of low-skill, low-wage workers and job seekers in Maryland. We oppose Senate Bill 653 as a means of ensuring that hardworking Marylanders can continue to access our paid sick and safe leave law without having to risk their job, paycheck, or financial security.

On February 1, 2018, over 700,000 Marylanders began to accrue earned sick and safe leave under the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act (HB 1 of 2017) after a long six (6) year fight. This long fight involved much negotiation and compromise to make sure that both businesses and workers are considered equitably when it comes to earned sick and safe leave. However, when it comes to earned sick leave, state-by-state we know that working families are the most vulnerable. No one should have to choose between their health and their job, yet an absence or delay of earned sick leave makes this choice ever-present for working families. Most importantly though, the absence or delay of earned sick leave means the increasing pressure and fear of losing income, which for a low-wage working family can ultimately mean the loss of stability on a variety of levels: family, economic, health, and more. Any alteration of earned sick and safe leave for Marylanders will only cause more harm and ultimately becomes counterproductive to the six years of progress Maryland has already made.

SB 653 seeks to exempt from the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act construction industry employees who are covered by a certain collective bargaining agreement.

JOTF is committed to opposing any legislation that seeks to undermine the hard work of countless legislators and advocates across the state to ensure that the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act continues as current law. We believe that what is proposed in Senate Bill 653 only serves to disrupt low-wage workers access to better job security. SB 653, as it would limit the millions of hard-working Marylanders, in particular low-income workers who are least able to lose even a single paycheck, can take necessary time off for family and medical life events without the risk of falling into poverty. For these reasons, we respectfully urge an unfavorable report of Senate Bill 653.

SB 653_Labor and Employment_Healthy Working Famili

Uploaded by: Griffin, Andrew

Position: INFO



LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Letter of Information

Senate Bill 653

Labor and Employment – Healthy Working Families Act - Application

Senate Finance Committee

Thursday, February 25, 2020

Dear Chairwoman Kelley and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 5,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic recovery and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

SB 653 seeks to repeal the exemption from the Healthy Working Families Act for construction industry employees who are covered by a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) and have expressly waived in clear and unambiguous terms the requirements outlined in the Healthy Working Families Act. Additionally, SB 653 changes the definition of who constitutes a construction industry worker to include: a janitor; a building cleaner; a building security officer; a concierge; a doorman; a handyperson; or a building superintendent.

While not opposed to the very limited nature of SB 653, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is concerned with the precedent set forth in this legislation. By overriding the clear and express agreements made between collective bargaining units and their employers, SB 653 undercuts the trust and intent of the bargaining process.

Additionally, SB 653 removes from exclusion individuals that are reasonably not considered to be in the construction trades. This sets another dangerous precedent by conflating who may or may not be eligible for consideration in other industries when the connection may be limited or nonexistent.