



WMDA/CAR Service Station
and Automotive Repair Association

March 15, 2021

Chair: Delores G. Kelly
Members of Finance Committee

RE: SB 727 - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Revisions and Public Health Emergency Leave

Position: In Opposition

Every business wants their employees to be safe and take care of their families in this COVID 19 pandemic. The service stations ,convenience stores and repair facilities were there to service customers even while losing money. With businesses closed and so many employees working remotely from home, traffic was off as much as 75% and more in some locations. Restricted operated businesses and remote teleworking are keeping traffic well below normal now. This continues to affect not only gas and convenience stores, but our repair facilities as well. All classified essential, but essential does not mean profit.

Some essential businesses might have prospered in the last year, box stores, grocery chains and on-line retailers but my members were not in that class.

How does a business pay a \$15.00 dollar an hour employee 112 hours or \$1,680.00 plus taxes or repair facility pay a \$40.00 an hour technician 112 hours or \$4,480.00 plus taxes? We cannot print money and the reserve has run out. Federal PPP loans were a life saver for business and employees but are mainly used up. Pockets are turned out.

An employer cannot ask for documentation .

An employee is eligible for 112 hours of sick leave even if he or she started employment the day an emergency is declared.

An emergency can be declared by federal, state, county, or local officials with authority, which leaves it wide open to interpretation and enactment.

Is there any doubt the 112 hours will get used when you are required to give an employee notice that they can use this up to three weeks after the emergency is over and then it disappears?

Programs like this will only enhance the march toward artificial intelligence. Coupled with the current sick leave, minimum wage, and lack of customers, some of my member will not survive and others will do so with less employees.

While well intended this is another bill where one size does not fit all.

Please give SB727 an unfavorable Report

Kirk McCauley
WMDA/CAR
301-775-0221
kmccauley@wmda.net