

ADDIE C. ECKARDT

Legislative District 37
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot
and Wicomico Counties



Annapolis Office

James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 322
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3590 · 301-858-3590
800-492-7122 Ext. 3590
Fax 410-841-3087 · 301-858-3087
Adelaide.Eckardt@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services
Subcommittee

Joint Committees

Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review

Audit

Children, Youth, and Families

Fair Practices and
State Personnel Oversight

Pensions

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

District Office

601 Locust Street, Suite 202
Cambridge, MD 21613
410-221-6561

Testimony for Senate Bill 542
State Health Care Facilities - Employees - Alternative Workweeks
Finance Committee
February 18, 2021

Madame Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 542 - State Health Care Facilities - Employees - Alternative Workweeks. This bill authorizes full-time employees working at Department of Health (MDH) clinical facilities to work three twelve-hour shifts rather than a traditional forty-hour week. Employees will still receive full-time status and benefits.

Current law and regulations prohibit employees working less than forty-hours a week from receiving full-time benefits. Senate Bill 542 clarifies and permits three twelve-hour shifts, in place of forty-hours, for the purpose of calculating benefits.

The workweek structure outlined under Senate Bill 542 mirrors those found in facilities outside of MDH. Three twelve-shifts are standard practice around the health care industry and will allow MDH to be more competitive in the recruitment and retention of full-time nurses. This bill can be implemented with existing fiscal and operational resources, and may reduce costs, as well.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 542.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt