



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

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

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BILL NO.: **SB 35**

TITLE: Procurement – Prevailing Wage – Applicability

SPONSOR: Senator Feldman

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: January 28, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 35 – Procurement – Prevailing Wage – Applicability. This legislation would lower the threshold for the application of the Prevailing Wage law for public work contracts from \$500,000 to \$250,000.

From the beginning of his administration, County Executive Olszewski has been a staunch supporter of Prevailing Wage Law. With the pandemic threatening the lives and livelihoods of residents across the state, the fight for increased labor rights has never been more critical. Baltimore County took a significant step to support workers when it passed prevailing wage legislation at the local level last year. Ensuring that workers on contract with local jurisdictions and the State are paid a fair wage sets an example that everyone deserves a wage that promotes comfort and stability.

Currently, only public contracts worth \$500,000 or more come with a prevailing wage requirement. By lowering the threshold for contracts that meet Prevailing Wage Law, this bill expands the number of workers who will fall under its requirements. This will ensure fair pay for workers who carry out crucial public contracts. This is not only important for the workers who would directly benefit, but for the recovery that is needed as the State emerges from the pandemic’s devastating economic effects. Labor legislation that secures fair pay is essential to ensuring more vulnerable communities have the necessary spending power to lift the economy out of its most recent downturn.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 35. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.