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Vice Chair
Economic Matters Committee



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Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the committee. I am Vice Chair Crosby and it is my honor to present HB145 entitled State Finance and Procurement – Prevailing Wage – Stop Work Orders.

This bill would require that any private contractor or subcontractor that works with the State of Maryland pays a fair wage to their employees, and gives the Department of Labor's Commissioner of Labor and Industry the power to issue stop-work orders if it is found that the contractor or subcontractor is not paying the prevailing wage. In 1965 the United States Congress passed the McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act requiring the government to use its bargaining power to ensure that any private contractor that the federal government hires pays a fair wage for its workers. The contractor is required to pay the prevailing wage in the locality as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor or the rates contained in a predecessor contractor's collective bargaining agreement, this is the prevailing wage. Similar to legislation passed in New Jersey.

This bill will ensure that any contractor that conducts business with the state of Maryland pays their workers the prevailing wage of the locality where the work is performed from the outset. For all these reasons, I ask for a favorable report on HB145.