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Patrick Moran - President

Testimony
HB 267 – Criminal Law – Threat Against Public Health Official
or Hospital Staff Member
Judiciary
January 25, 2022
Support

AFSCME Council 3 supports the passage of HB 267. This legislation would prohibit a person from making or sending a threat to a public health official with the intent to intimidate, interfere with, or impede a public health official from performing the official's duties. It also provides that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to imprisonment of up to 90 days and a fine of up to \$500, or both.

AFSCME Council 3 represents employees throughout our State's hospital system, as well as local health departments. Many of the hospitals are designated "forensic" and care for those that have histories of violence. And unfortunately the divisiveness of public health measures taken to combat the Coronavirus Pandemic has created environments that ironically jeopardize the physical health and wellbeing of state employees whose mission is to provide health and wellbeing to the State's residents.

HB 267 rightly creates a prohibition against actions designed to threaten and intimidate those that are performing an incredibly valuable public service. We thank the sponsors for bringing this legislation forward, and ask for a favorable report of HB 267.

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An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.
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