



190 West Ostend St., #201
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 410.547.1515
Fax: 410.837.5436

Patrick Moran - President

HB1021- Environment – Products That Contain Mercury – Fluorescent Lamps - Prohibition

POSITION: FAVORABLE

AFSCME Council 3 supports HB1021. The fight for safer workplaces and protecting the lives and health of our members is a top priority. This legislation would protect public employees and all Marylanders from mercury exposure.

When fluorescent bulbs break, they release mercury vapor into the air, creating a health hazard to those nearby. Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that the World Health Organization counts as among the top 10 most dangerous chemicals impacting public health. Weakened memory, insomnia, dizziness, and tremors, among other symptoms, have been observed in workers with higher mercury exposures.

Our members, working for the state as well as our public colleges and universities particularly maintenance, custodial workers, and those in the waste/recycling stream, are among those who run the risk of being exposed to mercury pollution when a fluorescent bulb breaks.

By phasing out fluorescent lighting, Maryland can create safer working environments for workers who otherwise need to handle or be around fluorescents.

We thank you and urge a favorable report.

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation.
An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.
800.492.1996

Find us: afscmemd.org
Like us: facebook.com/AFSCMEMD
Follow/Tweet us: [@afscmemaryland](https://twitter.com/afscmemaryland)