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Ann Arundel and Howard Counties

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Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee

Joint Committee on Fair Practices and
State Personnel Oversight

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Support: SB0048, Disaster Service and Uniformed Services Leave Modernization Act of 2023

What SB48 Accomplishes:

- Enables Uniformed Service personnel to access paid leave that only members of the armed services are currently able to use.
- The definition of Uniformed Service comes from [38 U.S.C § 4303\(16\)](#) and [20 CFR § 1002.5\(f\)](#).
- Extends paid disaster service leave to Civil Air Patrol, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, and volunteer EMS, fire departments, and rescue companies.
- Defines “Emergency Manager”
- Allows an employee’s appointing authority to increase the number of paid disaster service leave days that an employee can take

Why SB48 is Necessary:

- Maryland law currently does not allow members of the Uniformed Services (US Public Health Service, National Disaster Medical System, National Urban Search and Rescue Response System, etc.) to take paid leave for their duties. Instead, they must either take unpaid leave or personal leave.
- Federal law does provide leave for Uniformed Services, leaving Maryland out of step with federal policy.
- Paid Disaster Service Leave is only available to participants in the Red Cross, excluding many other important community responders.