

DAWN D. GILE
Legislative District 33
Anne Arundel County

Finance Committee

Chair

Anne Arundel County
Senate Delegation



Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 East
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3568 · 301-858-3568
800-492-7122 Ext. 3568
Dawn.Gile@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of SB0109 - State Employees - Parental Bereavement Leave

Madame Chair, Madame Vice Chair, and Fellow Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

SB0109, as introduced, would entitle any State employee to use up to 10 days of paid parental bereavement leave within 60 days after the death of the employee's child, who is younger than age 21, or after the employee experiences a stillbirth.

Background

As a mother, I cannot begin to fathom the grief that parents experience when losing a child. In such a tragic event, adequate time is needed for self-care before one can begin give the attention that's needed to do one's job on behalf of the people of Maryland.

Existing Law

Currently, state employees who lose a child are entitled to use five of their accrued days sick leave or may take up to three days of bereavement leave.

Solution

I have submitted a friendly sponsor amendment in response to feedback that we have received from stakeholders. SB0109 as amended would:

- Entitle state employees and employees of a public institution of higher education to up to 60 days of parental bereavement leave if the employee experiences a stillbirth or a death of an infant under the age of six months.
- Entitle state employees and employees of a public institution of higher education to up to ten days of parental bereavement leave if the employee experiences the death of a child of at least six months of age through age 27.

Passing this bill isn't just the right thing to do from a compassionate perspective, it's the right policy for our state as we work to rebuild state government.

Per the Fiscal Note, SB0109 would not have a state fiscal impact.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB0109.