

**HB176 – Labor and Employment – Occupational Safety and Health – Revisions  
(Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act)**

**Appropriations Committee  
February 18, 2025**

**FAVORABLE**

My name is Dorothy Bryant, I am the proud President of AFSCME Local 44. Our union represents thousands of municipal employees across Baltimore City. Our members deliver critical public services to the people of Baltimore including maintenance and repair of public infrastructure, community health services, sanitation services, health services for Baltimore City Public Schools, and so much more.

AFSCME Local 44 is in strong support of House Bill 176. I've been a member of my local for over 55 years. In 2024, my local lost two of our brothers. That's never happened before. Mr. Ronald Silver the Second, a young man, only 36 years old, lost his life on August 2, 2024, due to heat stress while he was out working. Mr. Silver worked in sanitation for the Department of Public Works in Baltimore City and was a member of AFSCME Local 44. Tragically, he died a month before Maryland's Heat Stress Standard went into effect. Had it been in effect prior to his death, it would have saved him. A report found that DPW did not have in place a comprehensive heat illness prevention program at the time of Mr. Silver's death. The work that MOSH does to set and enforce safety standards matters.

As if this tragedy wasn't enough, a few months later, another man who worked for DPW, Mr. Timothy Cartwell, was crushed between a utility pole and a truck and as a result lost his life. These tragedies are unacceptable and were both preventable. How many more people must die before we change our ways. For the sake of our public service workers and to make sure we do everything we can to prevent future deaths, please support the Davis Martinez Act. Thank you.