



March 7, 2025
Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
Maryland House Appropriations Committee
121 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: *Letter in Support of Maryland House Bill 605*

Dear Chair Barnes,

We are writing in support of Maryland House Bill 605 which would implement an automatic enrollment arrangement for certain Maryland state employees by amending the State Personnel and Pension statute.

As the second largest retirement plan provider in the United States, we have the privilege of serving over 88,000 plans covering over 18 million participants. In this role, we work closely with private and public sector plan sponsors to institute policies that help workers reach their retirement goals.

Our experience shows that automatically enrolling participants in workplace savings arrangements has been extremely effective in helping participants achieve retirement security. These successes have led to Empower supporting federal automatic enrollment legislation for private sector plans.

Automatic enrollment should not merely be an available option to increase and expand coverage in private sectors plans. Empower is one of the largest providers to government defined contribution retirement plans. We serve 29 state retirement programs and more than four million public plan workers. We have helped public plans across the country navigate state requirements for automatic enrollment and ultimately implement and administer automatic enrollment solutions in those plans.

We enthusiastically support automatic enrollment legislation for public sector plans as well. Empower data indicates that public sector plans that have implemented automatic enrollment programs generate nearly 40% higher plan participation rates than plans without automatic enrollment.



HB 605 represents common-sense public sector automatic enrollment legislation. We strongly support the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edmund F. Murphy III".

Ed Murphy

Edmund F. Murphy III | President and CEO
Empower