

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1300

126 W. 25th Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218
Telephone: 410-889-3566 Facsimile: 410-243-5541
www.atu1300.org

Proudly representing the transit workers of the MTA!



HB 37 - Declaration of Rights - Right to Organize

Favorable

House Appropriations Committee
January 28th, 2025

ATU Local 1300 represents over 3,000 transit workers at the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). This includes bus operators, bus mechanics, rail operators, rail maintenance workers, and more. Our members keep Maryland moving every day.

The right to organize and form unions is essential to a functioning democracy. It is recognized by Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, stating plainly, “Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.”

With likely attacks on unions coming at the federal level, it is important that Maryland makes our position known. Workers can, should, and will have the right to organize here. In Illinois, over 2.1 million voters (i.e. 58%) voted in favor of adding similar language to their state constitution.

“Employees shall have the fundamental right to organize and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing for the purpose of negotiating wages, hours, and working conditions, and to protect their economic welfare and safety at work. No law shall be passed that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively over their wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and work place safety, including any law or ordinance that prohibits the execution or application of agreements between employers and labor organizations that represent employees requiring membership in an organization as a condition of employment.”

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.