
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON HB1106

TO: House Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Jason Perkins-Cohen, Deputy Secretary
DATE: February 19, 2025
BILL: HB 1106-Business Regulation - Travel Services - Surety Requirement
(Don't You Worry (Wurie) Act)

MD LABOR POSITION: Support with Sponsor Amendments

The Maryland Department of Labor supports HB 1106 with amendments, which requires certain providers of travel insurance to register with the Department by providing evidence of financial security. The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that providers of travel services maintain adequate financial resources to safeguard consumers, thereby promoting greater accountability, stability, and safety in the industry.

MD Labor supports the sponsor's amendments that clarify the intent of the legislation and provide the appropriate balance that offers consumers protection without creating restrictions that may limit responsible travel businesses from providing high quality services to their clients.

The amendments clarify the information required for the travel business to register with MD Labor including requiring proof of professional liability and errors and omissions insurance, ensure that fees collected can be used to support the administrative requirements of the new registry, and reduce potential complexity for all parties.

The Department believes that the proposed amendments strengthen its intent and provide enhanced safeguards for all Marylanders. By ensuring that established protections are in place for consumers utilizing travel agencies, we will help foster greater security and confidence in the industry. The Department would like to thank the bill sponsor for leading the way for a potentially life-saving check on the travel agent industry.

The Department respectfully requests the House Economic Matters Committee consider a favorable Report on HB1106.

For questions, please contact Caroline Bauk, at Caroline.Bauk@maryland.gov