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Patrick Moran – President

**HB 1144 – State Public Transit Service and Stations –
Exclusion for Assault and Bodily Injury
Environment and Transportation Committee
February 20, 2025**

Position: FAVORABLE

AFSCME Council 3 represents 45,000 state, county, and municipal employees, including police officers serving with the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). Many of our members are also regular MTA riders, relying on the system daily to commute to work. We strongly support HB 1144. This bill mandates that the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) establish a policy that bans or excludes individuals from MTA services who commit assaults against passengers or transit workers, either on or near transit vehicles. This is important legislation to help keep transit workers and riders safe, especially at a time when assaults on transit workers are increasing.

HB 1144 provides a reasonable and effective approach to enforcing MTA policies, ensuring a safe transit environment for all riders. When passengers violate rules designed to protect everyone, there must be clear and consistent consequences. The bill stipulates that a first offense results in a 30-day ban, a second offense leads to a 180-day ban, and a third offense results in a lifetime ban. This approach mirrors similar legislation passed in states like Virginia, Illinois, New Jersey, Oregon, California, and Massachusetts. While it is essential to maintain accessible public transit for all, this should not extend to allowing passengers to engage in assaultive behavior without facing accountability.

We urge the committee to provide a favorable report on HB 1144. Thank you.