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Patrick Moran – President

**HB 795 – Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program – Employee
Certification and Awareness Materials
Finance Committee
March 19, 2025**

Position: FAVORABLE

AFSCME Council 3 represents 50,000 state, county, and municipal employees, many of whom are currently benefiting from or could potentially benefit from the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. We support HB 795. This legislation requires the Student Loan Ombudsman to create and distribute information about the PSLF program for public service employers in Maryland. This helps raise awareness and ensure that employers are equipped to guide their employees through the forgiveness process. Additionally, the bill allows public service employers to annually certify their employees' employment directly with the Department of Education and requires them to proactively provide clarification forms to employees who have previously requested them.

These changes will help simplify the often complex and evolving landscape of student loan forgiveness, making it more accessible for the dedicated public servants who, in choosing to work for state and local governments, frequently forgo higher-paying opportunities in the private sector to serve their communities.

HB 795 is a good bill. We urge the committee to provide a favorable report.