

Please Find **UNFAVORABLE** SB 26
Labor and Employment – Occupational Safety and Health – Revisions
(Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act)

I believe that this bill creates an unnecessary expansion of the State workforce with the addition of a high level, and presumable high paid, assistant commissioners role. Having worked for the Federal government for 37 years, I have personally witnessed ever expanding, titled roles such as "Technical Director" and "Assistant Technical Director" to take on the duties that one motivated "Division Chief" could easily handle. Within my experience, such roles are FAR from 40 hour a week duties yet are VERY high paying and leave the workforce in a constant state of bewilderment as to how they actually fill their work hours. This bill is following in the same vein.

Apart from the above mentioned government payroll bloat in a cash strapped state, I ponder if this bill will future enable regulations to further prohibit firearms in workplaces or fieldwork locations. It could affect public employees who are legally licensed to carry firearms thus potentially leading to conflicts with individual rights under the misguided guise of "workplace safety" (of which it would be actually the opposite!) The bill's reference to firearms in the context of violence prevention could be seen as a precedent for stricter firearm-related policies in other contexts also and this should be avoided.

If it is chosen to pursue this expansion of Maryland's budget deficit, I would urge the addition of language to the bill stating that nothing in the legislation is intended to infringe on Second Amendment rights or lawful firearm possession outside current workplace-specific policies.



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