



HB 1016/SB 672 – Economic Development - Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority – Established

Favorable with Amendments

Our unions represent the dedicated city workers who perform maintenance and operations duties to support the 100 events, and 400,000 visitors welcomed annually to the Baltimore Convention Center (BCC). AFSCME Local 44 members carry out this essential work while maintaining over 1.65 million square feet of facility space. Meanwhile, Unite Here Local 7 members in Baltimore proudly cook and serve meals to convention center visitors and provide hospitality services to many of these visitors at hotels surrounding the convention center. We share a common goal of establishing a modern, vibrant convention center in Baltimore City.

First and foremost, we firmly believe that the Baltimore Convention Center (BCC) should remain publicly owned and operated by the City of Baltimore. This is the most effective way to ensure that the revenues generated by the convention center remain accountable to the public, and that city employees who dedicate their careers to working at the BCC continue to receive fair pay, benefits, and union protections.

If, however, we move forward with establishing an Authority to govern the renovation, revitalization, and ongoing maintenance and operations of the BCC, we request the enclosed amendments to ensure that public support is going towards maintaining and creating good union jobs at the site.

Our amendments do the following:

1. Requires that the Authority shall establish rules and regulations that they will use union represented employees in the convention center.
2. Requires that the Authority has and maintains a preference for using public employees to perform the work of maintaining and operating the convention center.
3. Allows employees of the Authority to have the same collective bargaining rights that other state employees have under the [Public Employee Relations Act](#).
4. Requires that the authority employ all current City employees and employees of subcontractors, at the convention center, except those terminated for cause, and requires the Authority to recognize their current union, bargaining unit, and collective bargaining agreement.

Public support for the tourism industry in Baltimore has always been premised on the creation of community supporting jobs and failing to protect the Union jobs which exist at the Convention Center would undermine that goal.

Signed:

Patrick Moran
President
AFSCME Council 3

Tracy Lingo
President
Unite HERE Local 7, Baltimore

AFSCME Amendments to SB 672/HB1016

Economic Development – Baltimore Convention Center and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority – Established

12-1208

(D) EMPLOYEES OF THE AUTHORITY ARE SUBJECT TO THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ACT.

(add, by amendment, to SPP 3-102 “this title applies to:.... MES ... OPD, and the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority.”)

12-1206 - THE AUTHORITY SHALL

(9) ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS TO EFFECTUATE A PREFERENCE FOR FAIR, JUST, AND STABLE EMPLOYMENT AS MANFIESTED BY THE USE OF REPRESENTED EMPLOYEES FOR ALL WORK IN OR ON THE COVNENTION CENTER SITE OR DIRECTED BY THE AUTHORITY;

12-1206 - THE AUTHORITY SHALL

(9/10) HAVE AND MAINTAIN A PREFERENCE FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES TO PERFORM THE WORK OF MAINTAINING AND OPERATING THE CONVENTION CENTER;

Uncodified language....

...FURTHER ... That the Authority shall offer employment to all employees currently employed by the City of Baltimore, or a subcontractor thereof, and assigned to the Convention Center; retain all employees who accept employment for 180 days, except for termination with cause; recognize the current representative of those employees; recognize the appropriateness of a bargaining unit of such employees; and promptly bargain with the employee representative in good faith to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement.