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Patrick Moran – President

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## **SB 67 – Health Occupations Boards – Notation of Veteran Status and Eligibility for Benefits**

**Finance Committee  
January 28, 2025**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

AFSCME Council 3 represents 45,000 state, county, and municipal employees, including health care professionals who have proudly served our nation in the armed services. Each year, these professionals go through certification and licensure with the health occupations boards. Senate Bill 67 enhances collaboration between the health occupations boards and the Department of Veterans and Military Families to ensure these veterans receive the benefits they have earned and deserve.

We urge the committee to provide a favorable report on SB 67.  
Thank you.

The following states that have collective bargaining for state employees, AK, CA, CT, DC, DE, HI, IL, ME, MN, NE, NJ, NM, NV, OH, OR, PA, MT, RI, WA have a terminal point for negotiations, either binding interest arbitration, the right to strike, or a legislative process. These processes create a level playing field for both parties.

This legislation would create a mutual incentive to compel parties to reach an agreement around collective bargaining negotiations by instilling a binding interest arbitration process, whereby if the two sides cannot come to agreement through negotiations by a specified deadline the proposals.

From the two sides would be presented to a professional, neutral third- party arbitrator – hearing from witnesses and experts, with data and evidence – for consideration of all the facts involved with the purpose of determining which proposal is most appropriate to implement. The choice by the arbitrator would then be considered a binding resolution to be implemented by the Governor and exclusive bargaining representative for whatever appropriations are necessary to implement and fund the memorandum of understanding. The budgetary powers of the Maryland General Assembly remain unaltered.

SB 188 is a strong and positive step toward enhancing fairness, balance, and efficiency, and resolution. It follows a model that is well-established in other states and among Maryland counties. We urge a favorable report.

