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Patrick Moran – President

**HB 317 – Recipients of Economic Development Assistance or State Contracts –
Certification of Compliance With State Labor laws
Economic Matters
February 17, 2026**

Position: FAVORABLE

AFSCME Maryland Council 3 represents 55,000 state, county, and municipal employees across Maryland. We strongly support HB 317. This legislation requires recipients of economic assistance totaling \$100,000 or more, and contract awardees receiving \$250,000 or more in procurement funds, to submit an annual certification confirming compliance with state labor laws.

Public funds should come with public responsibility. Promoting strong labor standards must be a hallmark of publicly awarded funds. At a minimum, we should expect that entities benefiting from taxpayer dollars comply with the very laws designed to protect workers in our state.

Our labor laws exist to safeguard workers from preventable injuries and fatalities, wage theft, and the exploitation of children. These protections reflect our shared values and commitment to fairness, safety, and dignity in the workplace. Ensuring compliance is not an undue burden. Rather, it is a basic expectation.

Requiring annual certification is a modest, common-sense accountability measure. It helps ensure that taxpayer dollars are not supporting employers who violate the law or undermine worker protections. This bill does not create new labor standards; it simply reinforces adherence to existing ones.

HB 317 is fair and reasonable legislation. We respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report.