

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1300

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Proudly representing the transit workers of the MTA!



HB 148 - Consumer Protection and Labor and Employment - Surveillance-Based Price and Wage Setting - Prohibition

Favorable

House Appropriations Committee
February 10th, 2026

ATU Local 1300 represents over 3,000 transit workers at the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). This includes bus operators, bus mechanics, rail operators, rail maintenance workers, and more. Our members keep Maryland moving every day.

Surveillance based wage setting is used for only one purpose, to drive down wages for gig workers. It is not even used to deliver lower prices or better services to end users. It is just used to find the most maximally desperate worker who might still accept work for fear of never receiving work again. So called free markets operate under the assumption that rational actors can make decisions about prices with full information. Competition is supposed to lower prices over time until an equilibrium is reached. But this is impossible if every worker is paid the exact amount to match their desperation.

If a company is offering to pay some other guy double what they are willing to pay you and intimidates you into thinking you may never receive work again for declining insulting offers, you have no opportunity to fairly set a price. This whole argument even takes the misleading notion that gig workers “are independent contractors” capable of setting their own prices at face value. Wage and price discrimination are the definition of unfair, deceptive, and abusive business practices.

You may believe that your industry is exempt from these practices. Algorithmic approaches to markets have transformed nearly every industry they’ve been introduced to. It’s only a matter of time before they get to yours. We urge a favorable report on HB 148 and every other bill that curbs these practices.