

# Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689



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## Statement of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689

SB 0003

February 11, 2026

**TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee**  
**FROM: Benjamin Lynn, ATU Local 689 Press and Communications Associate**

Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 0003 which includes much needed improvements to the state of Maryland's unemployment insurance program. ATU Local 689 supports the bill and urges you to issue a favorable report.

Maryland's unemployment insurance program is in desperate and dire need of improvements and modernization. The minimum and maximum weekly benefits are simply too low and the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund does not have enough revenue to fully sustain benefits during extreme economic downturns. Unemployment Insurance is a critical safety net that workers earn and is essential for helping people support themselves and their families after they have lost their job. Improving and expanding the state's unemployment insurance program should be a priority for all lawmakers.

Senate Bill 0003 modernization of the state's unemployment insurance trust fund will ensure that the fund remains solvent and sustainable going forward. Additionally, the increase in the weekly benefits will provide better security to Maryland workers and help them pay essential bills until they are able to secure new employment.

ATU Local 689 would like to thank the bill's sponsor, Senator Kramer for championing this important legislation. We urge the Senate Finance committee to favorably report Senate Bill 0003.