



TESTIMONY

SB0922 Collective Bargaining – Local Government Employees and Public Employee Relations Act

Bill Sponsor: Senator Harris

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Co-Chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0922 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists – individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The rights of workers to organize and to bargain collectively with employers ensure that both workers and management come to the table as equals. This principle applies just as much to local government employees across Maryland. When workers have the ability to organize, they can advocate for reasonable wages, safe working conditions, and fair treatment. Without these rights, employers—public or private—too often hold all the power.

SB0922 addresses a long-standing inequity. Many local government employees perform essential public services but lack the same bargaining rights afforded to other public workers in Maryland. This bill corrects that imbalance and ensures that local employees are not left behind simply because of where they work.

Local governments, like any responsible employer, should not rely on sub-standard wages or poor working conditions to balance their budgets. Fair labor practices strengthen the workforce, reduce turnover, and improve service delivery to residents.

For these reasons, we strongly urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB0922.