



TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee

FROM: J. Steven Wise

DATE: March 11, 2026

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 804 – *Labor and Employment – Occupational Safety and Health – Revisions to Heat Stress Standards*

The Maryland Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (MDAGC) provides professional education, business development, and advocacy for commercial construction and highway companies and vendors, regardless of labor policy. AGC of America is the nation's largest and oldest trade association for the construction industry. MDAGC supports Senate Bill 804 with amendments.

This legislation addresses concerns related to the Heat Stress Standards recently adopted by the Maryland Department of Labor. With the amendments that have been put forth by various industry groups, MDAGC supports this legislation.

The amendments achieve several objectives but still preserve the intent of the regulations, which is ensuring that workers are protected. For example, the heat illness prevention plan required of employers must include specific procedures for how employees will be provided with sufficient rest and shade to cool off, for managing high heat conditions, and an emergency response plan, but they are not overly prescriptive like the regulations. This follows the California statute.

Other improvements allow the employer to provide drinking water within a reasonable distance of the work area rather than “as close as practicable.” The bill also shifts the training requirements to apply to supervisors rather than employees since the former are in control of the work environment. How supervisors will make employees aware of the dangers will be part of the heat illness prevention plan.

Again, the MDAGC supports Senate Bill 804 with these amendments, which will improve the workability of the heat stress standards currently in place without undermining their purpose.