



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

CHRISTOPHER M. CASH: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
WILLIAM T. NG: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • MARK F. PONTELLO: Treasurer



HB 45- Labor and Employment-Mandatory Meetings Religious or Political-Employee Attendance House Government, Labor and Elections Committee 2/19/2026 SUPPORT

TO: Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr and Members of the Government, Labor and Elections Committee

FROM: Tom Clark, Political Director, Intl' Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, Members of the Committee, please join with me and workplace ethics in **support of HB 45.**

HB 45 is common sense legislation regarding the rights of people in the office or job site. Our country, unlike most others, has a separation of church and state. HB 45 takes the 1st amendment one step further and acknowledges a persons right while “on the clock”. No individual should be held in a meeting during their work hours and be subject to the religious and political beliefs of their management.

I find it interesting that this hearing is taking place one day after Ash Wednesday. Imagine yesterday in this very hearing room when you noticed several of your colleagues carrying the mark of ashes on their forehead. A beginning of the Lenten season for some, but not all, and that’s what makes this country great. Now imagine a workplace manager requiring or just suggesting his or her employees receive ashes. Imagine that same manager requiring or suggesting their employees wear blue or red to favor a certain political party or idea. No, this has no place in Maryland or the United States. Even the thought of a captive audience meeting on a jobsite is un-American.

In the heated political world of 2026, this piece of legislation is needed. Let’s leave religious beliefs to the church and the elections to the polling place. Let’s keep the workplace to production and profits. For these reasons I ask that you **support HB 45.**
Thank you





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