

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor



YAAKOV "JAKE" WEISSMANN
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

TITLE: SB28 Arbitration Reform for State Employees Act of 2026

DATE: April 2nd 2026

COMMITTEE: Government, Labor, and Elections

POSITION: Favorable with Amendments

EXPLANATION: The Department of Budget and Management supports the intent of SB28 and its policy goals. However, we respectfully request that the bill be amended to provide an explicit effective date of January 1, 2027, in lieu of the current language tying the effective date to the Governor's proclamation following certification of the constitutional amendment.

Under the current language, if the constitutional amendment is approved by voters on November 3, 2026, and the Governor issues a proclamation shortly thereafter, the bill could technically take effect while the State is still in the midst of its full contract negotiations. This creates ambiguity as to whether those ongoing negotiations could be subject to the new binding arbitration process, an outcome that was not contemplated by the bill's structure and that could prove significantly disruptive to the negotiation process.

DBM respectfully requests that Section 6 be amended to read that the bill "shall take effect January 1, 2027, provided the constitutional amendment has been adopted by the people of Maryland.

**For additional information, contact Dana Phillips at
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