

HOUSE BILL 685

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By: **Delegates Johnson, Lisanti, ~~and Szeliga~~ Szeliga, Bhandari, and Impallaria**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2020

Assigned to: Economic Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2020

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Harford County – Workers’ Compensation – Permanent Partial Disability –**
3 **Detention and Correctional Officers and Deputy Sheriffs**

4 FOR the purpose of providing for enhanced workers’ compensation benefits for ~~a Baltimore~~
5 ~~County correctional officer, a Baltimore County detention officer,~~ a Harford County
6 deputy sheriff, a Harford County correctional officer, and a Harford County
7 detention officer for a compensable permanent partial disability of less than a certain
8 number of weeks; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to
9 workers’ compensation benefits for ~~Baltimore County correctional officers and~~
10 ~~detention officers and~~ Harford County deputy sheriffs, correctional officers, and
11 detention officers.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Labor and Employment
14 Section 9–628(a)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
18 Article – Labor and Employment
19 Section 9–628(h) and 9–629
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
2 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – Labor and Employment**

4 9–628.

5 (a) In this section, “public safety employee” means:

6 (1) a firefighter, fire fighting instructor, or paramedic employed by:

7 (i) a municipal corporation;

8 (ii) a county;

9 (iii) the State;

10 (iv) the State Airport Authority; or

11 (v) a fire control district;

12 (2) a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance, rescue, or advanced life
13 support worker who is a covered employee under § 9–234 of this title and who provides
14 volunteer fire or rescue services to:

15 (i) a municipal corporation;

16 (ii) a county;

17 (iii) the State;

18 (iv) the State Airport Authority; or

19 (v) a fire control district;

20 (3) a police officer employed by:

21 (i) a municipal corporation;

22 (ii) a county;

23 (iii) the State;

24 (iv) the State Airport Authority;

25 (v) the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission;

26 or

- 1 (vi) the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority;
- 2 (4) a Prince George's County deputy sheriff or correctional officer;
- 3 (5) a Montgomery County deputy sheriff or correctional officer;
- 4 (6) an Allegany County deputy sheriff;
- 5 (7) a Howard County deputy sheriff;
- 6 (8) an Anne Arundel County deputy sheriff or detention officer;
- 7 (9) ~~A BALTIMORE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OR DETENTION~~
8 ~~OFFICER;~~

9 ~~(10)~~ (10) a Baltimore County deputy sheriff, but only when the deputy sheriff
10 sustains an accidental personal injury that arises out of and in the course and scope of
11 performing duties directly related to:

- 12 (i) courthouse security;
- 13 (ii) prisoner transportation;
- 14 (iii) service of warrants;
- 15 (iv) personnel management; or
- 16 (v) other administrative duties;
- 17 ~~[(10)]~~ ~~(11)~~ a State correctional officer; [or]
- 18 ~~[(11)]~~ ~~(12)~~ a Baltimore City deputy sheriff; OR

19 ~~(13)~~ (12) A HARFORD COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF, CORRECTIONAL
20 OFFICER, OR DETENTION OFFICER.

21 (h) If a public safety employee is awarded compensation for less than 75 weeks,
22 the employer or its insurer shall pay the public safety employee compensation at the rate
23 set for an award of compensation for a period greater than or equal to 75 weeks but less
24 than 250 weeks under § 9-629 of this subtitle.

25 9-629.

26 If a covered employee is awarded compensation for a period equal to or greater than
27 75 weeks but less than 250 weeks, the employer or its insurer shall pay the covered

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1 employee weekly compensation that equals two-thirds of the average weekly wage of the
2 covered employee but does not exceed one-third of the State average weekly wage.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to
4 apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or
5 application to any claims arising from events occurring before the effective date of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2020.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.