



House Bill 1012

Labor and Employment – Reinstatement of Employment – Employees at Baltimore–Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport

March 5, 2021

Position: OPPOSE

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

On behalf of our members with BWI Airport locations, the Restaurant Association of Maryland strongly opposes House Bill 1012. This legislation is unprecedented at the state level, and is overly prescriptive regarding how our employers must rehire laid-off employees.

Although we all hope that business will quickly return to normal after the COVID pandemic and that we can rehire all employees, the reality is that many of our businesses may be forced to rethink their business models and how they operate to survive in a post-COVID world. This means they may also have to rethink their labor needs. Rehiring in the manner required by this legislation may be impracticable for many businesses. Moreover, this legislation imposes additional administrative burdens regarding the method of notification for rehiring, documentation and record-keeping. This bill also subjects businesses to costly civil action for non-compliance.

House Bill 1012 is an unnecessary and unwarranted interference in the rehiring practices of businesses as they struggle to overcome the crippling impact of the COVID pandemic on their operations. Instead of imposing additional burdens on businesses, the focus should be on helping businesses survive and recover so that they can continue to provide jobs.

For these reasons, we oppose this legislation and request an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Melvin R. Thompson
Senior Vice President
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