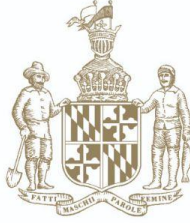


ERIC LUEDTKE
14th Legislative District
Montgomery County

Ways and Means Committee

Subcommittees
Chair, Finance Resources



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 222
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3110 · 410-841-3110
800-492-7122 Ext. 3110
Eric.Luedtke@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SPONSOR TESTIMONY

House Bill 388 - Prevailing Wage – University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, and St. Mary’s College of Maryland – Applicability

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

In recent years, Maryland has taken steps to ensure that employees should be compensated fairly for their work. The General Assembly exemplified this in 2019 when the body passed a \$15 minimum wage which is being phased in. This important step will reduce exploitation and provide a living wage for employees of all backgrounds around the State. But this is not the only way that we set minimum wage standards. Prevailing wage law sets basic hourly rates paid to similarly employed workers in a particular area. For instance, prevailing wage applies to construction workers who contract with the state for most projects valued at \$250,000 or more. However, the University System of Maryland is not required to pay the prevailing wage. House Bill 388 seeks to correct this omission.

This legislation requires all universities within the University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, and St. Mary’s University to pay prevailing wage. This seeks to ensure that contractors hired by these institutions are paid a fair wage for their work by applying the same standard that other units of state government are bound to. By doing so, the General Assembly would affirm that workers deserve fair pay whether they are hired by a University, the Stadium Authority, or any other state unit.

In this time where so many are struggling to receive fair treatment in the workplace, let us support these workers by ensuring that a prevailing wage is paid. I thank the Committee for your attention and ask for a favorable report on House Bill 388.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric Luedtke".

Delegate Eric Luedtke