

Bill Number: SB 230 / HB1**Recommended Position: Support****Title:** Maryland Healthy Working Families Act (Sick Leave)**Issue Area:** Income**Lead Sponsors:** Senator Middleton and Delegate Clippinger**Senate Cosponsors:** Astle, Benson, Conway, Currie, Feldman, Ferguson, Guzzone, Kagan, Kasemeyer, King, Lee, Madaleno, Manno, McFadden, Peters, Pinsky, Ramirez, Robinson, Nathan-Pulliam, Rosapepe, Smith, Young and Zucker**House Cosponsors:** Davis**Summary:**

HB 1 would require employers that employ 15 or more employees to provide those employees with earned sick and safe leave that is paid at the same wage rate as the employee normally earns. For employers with 14 or fewer employees, they would be required to provide an employee with unpaid earned sick and safe leave in some capacity.

Reason for the Bill:

The U.S. is the only industrialized country that doesn't mandate paid sick leave in the world. Twenty states and cities across the country have enacted it already - and more are underway. Studies show that paid sick leave improves employee health and businesses. The University of Washington did a study showing that one year after Seattle mandated paid sick leave, employment actually rose.

Legislative History:

2016	Passed the House in a party line vote by failed to move in Senate
1/19/2017	First Reading Senate Finance; committee hearing 1/24
1/11/2017	First Reading House Economic Matters; committee hearing 2/10

Support:

- The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union Local 400
- United Workers
- Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO
- Dr. Leana S. Wen, city health commissioner
- The Service Employees International Union 1199
- Working Families
- Cancer Support Foundation

Opposition:

- The National Federation of Independent Businesses
- The Maryland Chamber of Commerce
- Howard County Chamber of Commerce
- Maryland Retailers Association

Strategic Considerations:

We are confident that paid sick leave will pass this year. Del. Luke Clippinger/Del. Derrick Davis have introduced HB1/SB230, and Governor Hogan has introduced his own competing legislation (SB305/HB382). There is some distinct difference between the two. HB 1 applies to employers with 15 employees or more and covers part time workers, whereas Governor Hogan's bill applies to employers with 50 employees, does not cover part time workers, and offers tax incentives. The biggest fight here will be for HB1 without amendments.

Why Health Care for the Homeless should support this bill:

Paid sick leave protects people's access to wages and upholds our efforts to ensure people have access to health care and livable wages.

