

SENATE BILL 652

L6, L3

5lr3136
CF HB 1080

By: **Senator Jennings**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 21, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Local Government – Local Personnel – Leave With Pay**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that governmental units may provide disaster service
4 leave with pay to certain employees; establishing that an employee of a
5 governmental unit of a county or a municipality may be entitled to disaster service
6 leave with pay under certain circumstances; authorizing certain governmental units
7 to waive certain requirements for disaster service leave; authorizing a governmental
8 unit of a county or a municipality to provide certain leave with pay under certain
9 circumstances; and generally relating to disaster service leave and leave with pay
10 for employees of counties and municipalities in the State.

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Local Government
13 Section 1–207 and 1–208
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2013 Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Local Government**

19 **1–207.**

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.



(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF A GOVERNMENTAL UNIT OF A COUNTY OR A MUNICIPALITY IN THE STATE.

(B) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTIONS (C) THROUGH (E) OF THIS SECTION, EACH GOVERNMENTAL UNIT MAY PROVIDE DISASTER SERVICE LEAVE WITH PAY TO EMPLOYEES SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION.

(C) ON REQUEST, AN EMPLOYEE SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION MAY BE ENTITLED TO DISASTER SERVICE LEAVE WITH PAY IF:

(1) (I) THE EMPLOYEE IS CERTIFIED BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AS A DISASTER SERVICE VOLUNTEER; AND

(II) THE AMERICAN RED CROSS REQUESTS THE SERVICES OF THE EMPLOYEE DURING A DISASTER THAT IS DESIGNATED AT LEVEL II OR ABOVE IN THE REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS; OR

(2) THE EMPLOYEE IS A MEMBER OF:

(I) THE CIVIL AIR PATROL;

(II) THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY;

(III) MARYLAND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER;

(IV) A VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT;

(V) A VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT;

(VI) A VOLUNTEER RESCUE COMPANY OR VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD; OR

(VII) A COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM.

~~(C)~~ (D) AN EMPLOYEE MAY USE UP TO 15 DAYS OF DISASTER SERVICE LEAVE IN ANY 12-MONTH PERIOD ONLY AFTER OBTAINING APPROVAL FROM THE EMPLOYEE'S GOVERNMENTAL UNIT.

~~(D)~~ (E) DURING A PROLONGED OR RECURRENT DISASTER, THE EMPLOYEE'S GOVERNMENTAL UNIT MAY:

1 (1) WAIVE THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTIONS ~~(B)~~ (C) AND ~~(C)~~
2 (D) OF THIS SECTION THAT AN EMPLOYEE MUST REQUEST AND OBTAIN APPROVAL
3 BEFORE THE EMPLOYEE MAY USE DISASTER SERVICE LEAVE, IF WAIVING THE
4 REQUIREMENT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY
5 OR MUNICIPALITY; AND

6 (2) INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DAYS OF DISASTER SERVICE LEAVE
7 UNDER SUBSECTION ~~(C)~~ (D) OF THIS SECTION THAT AN EMPLOYEE MAY USE, IF AN
8 INCREASE IN LEAVE WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITIZENS OF THE
9 COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY.

10 1-208.

11 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “UNIFORMED SERVICES” HAS THE MEANING STATED
12 IN 38 U.S.C. § 4303 AND 20 C.F.R. § 1002.5(O).

13 (B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF A GOVERNMENTAL UNIT
14 OF A COUNTY OR A MUNICIPALITY IN THE STATE.

15 (C) EACH GOVERNMENTAL UNIT MAY PROVIDE LEAVE WITH PAY:

16 (1) FOR JURY SERVICE;

17 (2) TO ATTEND EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION EVENTS APPROVED FOR
18 THIS PURPOSE BY THE HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENTAL UNIT;

19 (3) FOR UP TO 30 DAYS FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES TRAINING OR
20 ACTIVE UNIFORMED SERVICES DUTY IN A RESERVE UNIT OF THE ARMED FORCES OR
21 IN THE ORGANIZED MILITIA;

22 (4) UNLESS THE EMPLOYEE IS A PARTY TO THE ACTION OR A PAID
23 WITNESS, TO APPEAR IN COMPLIANCE WITH A SUBPOENA:

24 (I) IN COURT;

25 (II) BEFORE A GRAND JURY;

26 (III) BEFORE AN ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT; OR

27 (IV) FOR A DEPOSITION;

28 (5) FOR ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR THE PURPOSE OF
29 IMMEDIATELY REMOVING AN EMPLOYEE FROM THE WORK SITE, IF THE EMPLOYEE:

1 **(I) POSES A THREAT TO SELF, ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL, OR**
2 **COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL PROPERTY; OR**

3 **(II) IS INCAPABLE OF PROPERLY PERFORMING THE**
4 **EMPLOYEE’S DUTIES BECAUSE OF EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES; AND**

5 **(6) FOR ANY OTHER PAID LEAVE THE HEAD OF A GOVERNMENTAL**
6 **UNIT CONSIDERS NECESSARY.**

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.