



To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business

Senate Bill 391: Federal Shutdown Paycheck Protection Act

Finance

February 5, 2019

SUPPORT

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our over 400 members by advocating for increased business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

Senate Bill 391 is an emergency bill, contingent on a federal determination, which specifies that an individual who is a civilian employee of the federal government is eligible to receive unemployment insurance (UI) benefits if (1) the employee is required to report to work at a work site located in the State and (2) the federal government is in a full or partial shutdown due to a lapse in appropriations.

Funding for several federal departments and agencies lapsed on December 21, 2018. Funding was temporarily restored on January 25, 2019, for three weeks – through February 15. According to data from the Office of Personnel Management, there are about 129,000 federal civilian Executive Branch jobs located in Maryland, excluding the Postal Service and classified agencies. Employment at departments and agencies affected by the recent shutdown totaled almost 43,000.

Nationally, about half of the 800,000 federal employees impacted by the shutdown were furloughed, while the rest continued to work without pay for safety or security reasons. Whether that ratio between furloughed and working without pay was representative of the situation in Maryland is unknown at this time. Federal employees who were required to work during the recent shutdown were guaranteed to get paid for the time they worked.

MCCC strongly supports this measure to give additional assistance to those federal workers impacted by potential future federal shutdowns.

For these reasons, we request a **favorable report on Senate Bill 391**.