

SENATE BILL 545

K3

6lr2449
CF HB 290

By: **Senators Pugh, Ferguson, and Rosapepe**
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2016
Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Labor and Employment – Apprenticeship Career Training in Our**
3 **Neighborhoods (ACTION) Program – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of altering and renaming the Construction Apprenticeship Assistance
5 Program to establish the Apprenticeship Career Training in Our Neighborhoods
6 (ACTION) Program; altering the purpose and method for administering the
7 Program; requiring the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to
8 administer the Program; establishing certain standards under which certain
9 employers may be eligible to receive certain grants; requiring the Department,
10 rather than the Secretary, to adopt certain regulations; altering a specification
11 regarding the method for awarding certain grants to certain eligible employers and
12 determining the amount of the grant for each eligible employer; repealing
13 specifications regarding a certain maximum grant amount and the process for
14 distributing certain grants; declaring the intent of the General Assembly that the
15 Program receive certain funding on an annual basis; defining a certain term; and
16 generally relating to the Apprenticeship Career Training in Our Neighborhoods
17 (ACTION) Program.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Labor and Employment
20 Section 11–601
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

25 **Article – Labor and Employment**

26 11–601.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) In this section, [“private sector entity” means a person that the Maryland
2 Apprenticeship and Training Council approves under § 11–405(b) of this title] **“ACTION
3 PROGRAM” MEANS THE APPRENTICESHIP CAREER TRAINING IN OUR
4 NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

5 (b) There is [a Construction Apprenticeship Assistance] **AN APPRENTICESHIP
6 CAREER TRAINING IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS** Program in the Department.

7 (c) The [purpose] **PURPOSES** of the [Construction Apprenticeship Assistance]
8 **ACTION** Program [is] **ARE:**

9 (1) to develop a well-trained, productive construction workforce which
10 meets the needs of the State’s economy;

11 (2) **TO ENCOURAGE EMPLOYERS TO HIRE APPRENTICES IN THE
12 CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY; AND**

13 (3) **TO HELP EMPLOYERS OFFSET ADDITIONAL COSTS, IF ANY,
14 ASSOCIATED WITH HIRING APPRENTICES.**

15 (d) (1) The [Division] **DEPARTMENT** shall administer the [Construction
16 Apprenticeship Assistance] **ACTION** Program and **PROVIDE GRANTS ON A
17 COMPETITIVE BASIS TO EMPLOYERS THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER
18 PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

19 (2) **AN EMPLOYER IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A GRANT IF THE
20 EMPLOYER EMPLOYS ONE OR MORE APPRENTICES WHO:**

21 (I) **HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED BY THE EMPLOYER FOR AT LEAST 7
22 MONTHS;**

23 (II) **ARE ENGAGED IN A BUILDING OR CONSTRUCTION TRADE;**

24 (III) **ARE ENROLLED IN THE FIRST YEAR OF AN APPRENTICESHIP
25 PROGRAM REGISTERED WITH THE MARYLAND APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING
26 COUNCIL UNDER § 11–405(B) OF THIS TITLE; AND**

27 (IV) **LIVE IN A ZIP CODE IN WHICH THE PERCENTAGE OF
28 POVERTY IS AT LEAST 20% AS ESTABLISHED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
29 COMMERCE, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, IN THE MOST RECENTLY RELEASED DATA.**

30 (e) (1) As provided in the State budget, the [Construction Apprenticeship
31 Assistance] **ACTION** Program shall award grants to eligible [private sector entities that
32 operate apprenticeship programs in the State] **EMPLOYERS.**

1 **(2) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT, FOR FISCAL**
2 **YEAR 2017 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE STATE BUDGET INCLUDE AN**
3 **APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST \$100,000 FOR THE ACTION PROGRAM TO:**

4 **(I) PROVIDE GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYERS; AND**

5 **(II) COVER ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**

6 (f) **[The Secretary may] THE DEPARTMENT SHALL** adopt regulations necessary
7 to carry out this section, **INCLUDING REGULATIONS TO:**

8 **(1) DEVELOP REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS;**

9 **(2) DEVELOP A PROCESS FOR REVIEWING GRANT APPLICATIONS AND**
10 **AWARDING GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYERS; AND**

11 **(3) DETERMINE A CAP FOR THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF A GRANT THAT**
12 **AN ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER MAY RECEIVE EACH YEAR.**

13 (g) **[By regulation, the Secretary shall establish:**

14 (1) criteria to determine the eligibility of private sector entities; and

15 (2) an application process for determining eligibility.

16 (h) **A] THE AMOUNT OF A** grant awarded by the **[Construction Apprenticeship**
17 **Assistance] ACTION** Program under subsection (e) of this section shall be based on the
18 number of **[participants in a program operated by an eligible private sector entity]**
19 **APPRENTICES WHO SATISFY THE CRITERIA IN SUBSECTION (D)(2) OF THIS SECTION**
20 **THAT THE ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER EMPLOYS.**

21 (i) A grant shall consist of a maximum of \$1,000 for each apprentice in an eligible
22 private sector entity.

23 (j) The Construction Apprenticeship Assistance Program shall distribute a grant
24 awarded to a private sector entity:

25 (1) at the end of a Program year; and

26 (2) only to the extent that each apprentice has completed the Program
27 year.]

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
29 1, 2016.

