

Public Hearing
SB 232 – Prevailing Wage – Procurement Prevailing Wage Applicability
February 13, 2020
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Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' Association Mid-Atlantic Chapter
Greenbelt, Maryland

The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors Association – Mid-Atlantic Chapter (SMACNA) located in Greenbelt, Maryland supports SB 232. Our organization represent some 60 firms representing more than 2, 000 workers who do work in all parts of the state and are responsible for helping to build much of Maryland's infrastructure.

Prevailing Wage is key to maintaining a highly educated trained and skilled workforce in Maryland. Prevailing Wage also provides tangible benefits to every Maryland community in the form of employment opportunities, a strong tax base, and making the state an attractive place to live and work. Business owners need to know that they can take on work that will allow them to fairly compensate their workers, cover their overhead, pay taxes, and yes, make a profit.

In eliminating the percentage requirement, it will create a more level and competitive bid process for contractors when requests for proposals are issued by the Maryland Board of Public Works. The majority of our contractors are small businesses with many being five to 10 person shops.

By offering good wages and benefits, employers are able to attract workers, establish and maintain apprenticeship programs, employ effective safety programs, and in the end save the state money.

The prevailing wage program ensures that workers will receive the training necessary to perform the tasks needed to safely and successfully build hospitals, sports arenas, museums, colleges and universities.

Prevailing wage requires contractors to employ registered apprentices and journeypersons that are compensated with fair wages and fringe benefits that include defined pensions and health insurance for themselves and their families with no pre-existing conditions. They are also part of the Joint Apprenticeship Training Council with labor and management funding our apprenticeship programs at no cost to our apprentices and setting the gold standard for apprenticeship programs throughout the State.

No time has it been more important for our state to re-invest in our infrastructure by repairing and rebuilding our airports, roads, bridges, railroads, and other key facilities needed to maintain the important services we all depend upon. Without the contractors and skilled workers supported by Prevailing Wage Laws who will do this work?

The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors Mid-Atlantic Chapter encourages the committee to issue a favorable vote on Senate Bill 232.

For more information or questions, please contact Bernard Brill, SMACNA Mid-Atlantic Chapter, 7833 Walker Dr., Suite 640, Greenbelt, MD. Ph: 301/446-0002 x 101 or email Bernie@smacnaatl.org.

