

Senate Bill 926

Date: March 29, 2022
Committee: House Economic Matters
Bill Title: Apprenticeships and Representation on the Apprenticeship and Training Council
Re: Letter of Information

As originally written, SB926 did not have an impact on the Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor). It required the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council (MATC), which is overseen by MD Labor, to specifically include representation on the Council by individuals who are Black and Latino (a provision that is duplicative of diversity language in current statute).

Amendments to the legislation will now require the Department to support the *Apprenticeship 2030 Commission* and share deliverables with the Maryland General Assembly (MGA). While responsibilities to staff the *Commission* will fall to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS), MD Labor anticipates providing extensive support given the content and timeframe of this project. **As currently amended, the bill will have significant operational and fiscal impact on MD Labor.** In order to support DLS, **MD Labor will require a contractual Policy Analyst for the duration of activities** (Grade 16/Base, plus fringe, supplies, and travel). This individual would assist with convening, research, and drafting the report due to MGA in December 2023.

Additionally, modifications to SB926 include a fiscal allocation to **only one** of the State’s 13 Local Workforce Development Areas (Local Area): Prince George’s County. As the State agency tasked with distributing federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) dollars, Relief Act awards, and American Rescue Plan Act funds, MD Labor is aware of the following appropriations to Employ Prince George’s (EPG):

Funding Source	Award Amount to EPG
<i>Relief Act</i> (2021, SB 496)	\$829,500
<i>American Rescue Plan Act</i> (FY22 allocation)	\$5,943,750
<i>WIOA Title I</i> (FY22 allocation)	\$4,783,929
<i>American Rescue Plan Act</i> (FY23 allocation)	~\$5,800,000 (anticipated)

Typically, the Department allocates funds to **all** 13 jurisdictions based on a WIOA Title I formula, and did so for the abovementioned funding streams. As amended, SB 926 provides fiscal carve-out for a **single** Local Area. The bill now directs over \$1,000,000 annually to Employ Prince George’s (EPG) in Fiscal Years 2024, 2025, and 2026 for workforce services **in addition to** the existing noted resources.

The Department asks the Committee to consider this information as it evaluates SB926 and its amendments.