



**Bill No:** House Bill 132 – Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration – Journeyman License – Qualifications

**Committee:** Economic Matters Committee

**Date:** February 7, 2023

**Position:** Unfavorable

The Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington (AOBA) represents members that own or manage more than 23 million square feet of commercial office space and 133,000 apartment rental units in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties. AOBA members depend on HVAC technicians to service their buildings.

AOBA is concerned that House Bill 132 will contribute to the existing HVAC labor shortage that is causing delays in repairs, increasing operating costs, and impacting tenant quality of life. According to the National Comfort Institute, there were 80,000 unfilled HVAC technician positions across the US prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1</sup> This number represents 39% of technicians currently employed and the industry is expected to lose another 8% or 20,000 technicians annually in the coming years. These statistics were only exacerbated by the pandemic, which saw an increase in attrition due to retirements, generous stimulus money, and employment opportunities in other industries.

**For these reasons, AOBA urges an unfavorable report on HB 132** For further information, contact Brian Anleu, AOBA Vice President of Government Affairs for Maryland at (240)381-0494 or [banleu@aoba-metro.org](mailto:banleu@aoba-metro.org).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.contractingbusiness.com/residential-hvac/article/21123518/technician-shortage-solutions-opportunities>