

Journeyman Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



Local Union No. 602

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AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

HB132 - Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Services - Journeyman License - Qualifications

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Wilson and honorable members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

On behalf of the UA Steamfitters Local 602, the more than 5000 Journeymen, Apprentices and Helpers we represent, and the roughly 200 signatory contractors under the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metro Washington with whom we work, I write today to thank Delegate Qi for sponsoring HB132, and to ask the committee for a favorable report.

This legislation makes sense for the same reasons that our union requires rigorous skills training: because it produces outstanding workers, prepared for the complex construction and service needs of the 21st Century.

On background, UA Steamfitters Local 602 members are the men and women who provide the installation, service and maintenance of the equipment and components necessary to operate:

- Heating and Air Conditioning systems in your homes, places of work, education, recreation, necessity and leisure.
- Electricity generating processes in Gas, Coal, Trash Burning and Nuclear Power Generation facilities.
- Low and Medium Temperature Refrigerators, Freezers and Coolers in Grocery Stores, Convenience Stores, Food Processing Plants and Restaurants.
- Medical Gas systems in Hospitals, Clinics and Doctor's Offices.
- Pharmaceutical and Microchip Fabrication systems in processing plants.
- Cooling systems that monitor and modulate the safe operating temperature of the internet servers and critical computer systems in Data Centers, Office Buildings, Server Farms, Broadcasting Equipment and Cellular Service Towers.

In order to prepare our Apprentices for these diverse workforce installations, UA Steamfitters 602 requires our Apprentices to complete 8500 hours of training, over a 5-year period.

This is far more rigorous than current law, which only requires Apprentices to complete 1875 hours of skills training over a period of 3 years, before qualifying to be a Journeyman. As

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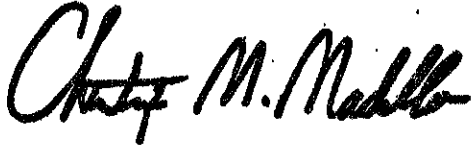
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drafted, HB132 increases current law standards (for Apprentices engaged in heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration only) from 1875 hours to 6000 hours, and from 3 years to 4 years, under the direction and control of a licensed contractor.

While not as rigorous as UA Steamfitters 602 training standards, HB132 represents a significantly more rigorous training program than does current law, and is an enormous step in the right direction. For those reasons, we respectfully ask for a favorable committee report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris M. Madello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Madello
Business Manager and Financial Secretary / Treasurer
UA Steamfitters Local 602