



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**HB 132 - Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Services
- Journeyman License - Qualifications
House Economic Matters
February 7, 2023**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 132. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

HB 132 raises the required number of training hours before applying for a heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration (HVACR) journeyman's license from 1875 to 6000. It also requires an applicant to hold their apprentice license for four years instead of three.

Union apprenticeships in HVACR, like those offered by our affiliates, far exceed the new standards required by this bill. Current union HVACR apprenticeships participating in the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Program are required to meet 8,000 hours of training and 576 hours of additional instruction. Many programs offered by our affiliates require well above what Maryland requires. We believe that increasing minimum training standards for everyone will result in a better trained workforce.

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