

MID-ATLANTIC PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION



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Economic Matters Committee

To: Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair; Delegate Brian Crosby, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee.
From: Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association.

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our 10,000+ United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitter members and family members across Maryland, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 132**.

When working on Heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration systems, experience matters. In modern society, a breakdown of these systems can harm people. Therefore, we strongly support increasing the required on-the-job hours and years of experience to be a licensed journeyman on HVACR Systems. The time an apprentice spends working under a licensed journeyman is extremely valuable because they get to learn hands-on from someone with the Journeyman license they are trying to earn. A licensed Journeyman needs to be highly skilled in their craft, so we do not want to make the requirements weaker than the previous generation. The original number of 1875 hours is less than one year of on-the-job training in a union-registered apprenticeship program, while 6000 hours is approximately three years in a union-registered apprenticeship. This increase will bring the industry to a higher standard.

For the reason discussed above, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 132**.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

Plumbers and Gasfitter Local 5 – Camp Springs, MD
Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 10 – Richmond, VA/Roanoke, VA
Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 110 – Norfolk, VA
Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669 – Columbia, MD

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486 – Baltimore, MD
Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 489 – Cumberland, MD
Steamfitters Local 602 – Capitol Heights, MD