

**SB 0337.pdf**

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Position: FAV



## LOCAL UNION 410 INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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SB 0337  
Brian Terwilliger  
IBEW Local Union 410  
[BrianTerwilliger@local410.com](mailto:BrianTerwilliger@local410.com)  
610-554-2072

### SB 0337 SUPPORT

### Utility Contractors- Employment and Licensure- Requirements and Application

Finance Committee  
February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Madame Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Finance Committee:

IBEW Local Union 410 represents the men and women who ensure the integrity of the electrical and gas grid inside Baltimore Gas and Electric's service territory. This letter is sent to show our overwhelming support for SB 0337. IBEW Local 410 represents more than 1400 individuals who are tasked with keeping your lights on and the gas flowing.

SB 0337 will move the state of Maryland in the direction needed to build our infrastructure with a qualified work force. It will bring jobs to our cities, providing prevailing wages and benefits that will retain residents. SB 0337 will build a stronger middle class while helping members of our community get certified training to help them excel in the workforce. SB 0337 will hold contractors accountable by mandating proper training making safety the number one priority.

I/We urge a favorable report on SB 0337.

Thank you,

Brian Terwilliger

# **SB337 Support.pdf**

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Position: FAV

# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building Trades Council — AFL-CIO  
Baltimore Port Council  
Baltimore Metro Council — AFL-CIO  
Central MD Labor Council — AFL-CIO  
Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO  
Maryland State - D.C. — AFL-CIO  
National Safety Council



AFL-CIO-CLC

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

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DAVID W. SPRINGHAM, JR., Recording Secretary  
JEROME T. MILLER, Financial Secretary  
MICHAEL J. McHALE, Business Manager

OFFICE:

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Phone: 410-247-5511

FAX: 410-536-4338

## Written Testimony of

Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the Senate Finance Committee On

SB 337 Utility Contractors - Employment and Licensure - Requirements and Application

### Support

February 15, 2023

Madame Chair Griffith and Committee Members,

My name is Rico Albacarys and I am a proud member and employee of IBEW Local 24 in Baltimore. I am writing to express my strong **support** for **Senate Bill 337**, which requires family-sustaining wages and apprenticeship standards for investor-owned utility construction of electrical transmission lines and facilities.

As someone who cares deeply about the well-being of workers and the future of our communities, I believe that this bill is crucial in ensuring that good, family-sustaining jobs are created and maintained in the electrical transmission sector. It is imperative that we incentivize businesses to create quality jobs that pay fair wages and provide opportunities for workers to advance and improve their skills. In addition, this bill will help to ensure that our communities benefit from well-trained and skilled workers in this important field. I believe that this will lead to improved safety, increased efficiency, and a more reliable electrical grid for all.

I respectfully request that you vote **favorably** on **Senate Bill 337** and help create a better future for our state.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys

Assistant Business Agent IBEW Local 24

# **SB 337 - Utility Contractors - Employment and Lice**

Uploaded by: Donna Edwards

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# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

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*President*

**Donna S. Edwards**

*Secretary-Treasurer*

**Gerald W. Jackson**

## **SB 337 - Utility Contractors - Employment and Licensure - Requirements and Application Senate Finance Committee February 16, 2023**

### **SUPPORT**

**Donna S. Edwards  
President**

**Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 337. 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.

SB 337 clarifies a section from the 2022 Climate Solutions Now Act requiring gas, electric, and investor-owned electric companies to pay prevailing wage, offer healthcare, provide retirement plans, participate in registered apprenticeships, create a plan for local hiring of workers, follow state and federal wage and hour laws, comply with state reporting requirements, and hold all necessary licenses for the work they were doing. SB 337 removes an unnecessary provision that limited these requirements only to the portions of the projects that were funded with federal money. SB 337 also expands the number of apprenticeship programs eligible for compliance with the section's provisions, adding U.S. Department of Labor registered apprenticeships in addition to state registered apprenticeships.

As we move from a traditional energy economy to a clean energy economy it is vital that we are creating a policy and regulatory framework that ensures we are bolstering family-sustaining careers and not just creating dead-end jobs. We know that meeting Maryland's climate goals requires expanding state electricity production multiple times its current levels and expanding the grid's capacity by similar amounts. This means a massive amount of work in energy generation, transmission, and infrastructure over the coming decade. Renewable energy generation, transmission, and storage are the growth industries of the future. For these projects it is paramount that we apply labor standards. We must hold these new energy jobs to a high standard now, ensuring that we are setting up the next generation of workers to be as successful as the ones that precede them. The Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO is fully dedicated to ensuring that climate jobs become good jobs. At our 2022 Convention, delegates unanimously passed a resolution in support of these efforts, attached to this testimony.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 337.

## **Resolution on Climate Change and Jobs**

**WHEREAS**, numerous studies suggest that there is major job creation potential from tackling the climate crisis, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and transitioning to a low-carbon, sustainable economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the overall lack of high-road jobs in the green economy and the prevalence of non-union jobs in the limited existing green sectors, such as solar and residential retrofitting, have dampened enthusiasm for the long-promised “clean, green economy” among workers and labor organizations that are anxious to address the climate crisis and build a pro-worker, equitable green economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the growing clean energy sector, driven by the dictates of its investors, in many cases does not provide the high-quality union jobs that exist in traditional energy and manufacturing industries, and it is highly reliant on imported goods

**WHEREAS**, the fossil fuel industries have high rates of unionization. The high-quality jobs held by union members across our economy in sectors producing or using fossil energy are at risk, as well. Fossil-fuel production and use has not only provided the energy that made our modern economy, but also supports union jobs in a broad range of sectors— energy production, manufacturing, transportation and more; and

**WHEREAS**, strong job and training quality standards are needed in the clean and renewable energy sector, among them being prevailing wage, state-approved apprenticeship job training requirements, project labor agreements, and labor peace agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, a functioning jobs pipeline could ensure that local workers from our communities have a path to career employment by offering access to training programs such as direct-entry pre-apprenticeship programs and other skill-building opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, these job and training quality standards should be central to all “climate jobs” proposals; and

**WHEREAS**, climate efforts should include funding and guaranteed protection for workers and communities who are displaced or negatively affected by the transition to a low-carbon economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the AFL-CIO has developed strong policy proposals for protecting workers who are impacted by climate protection policies. These proposals provide a just transition, including 70% wage replacement and 80% health benefit replacement for up to three years, as well as “bridge to retirement” funding for workers who are near retirement.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO supports measures that ensure that energy infrastructure development creates good jobs and builds our industrial base by requiring project labor agreements, prevailing wage, apprenticeship job training requirements, Buy Union and Buy America provisions, labor peace, card check neutrality, robust training requirements for all projects, and includes all the labor requirements passed in the Clean Energy Jobs law.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO in facing the challenge of impacting energy policies embraces a balanced and just approach for workers, communities, manufacturers, businesses and consumers and will continue to work with community, business and environmental allies committed to recognizing the need for worker protections, rights, and sustainable wages and benefits, to maintain a wide range of energy sources, traditional and newer, to secure Maryland’s and the District of Columbia’s competitiveness.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO will, in every forum, demand that clean energy technologies be mined, produced, constructed, and operated under union contracts. The growth of the clean energy economy cannot provide cover for employers that want to operate nonunion and must provide the high-quality jobs that Americans want and deserve.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO will advocate for legislation, administrative rules, and the development of an initiative to enable a transition that is just for workers and communities directly affected by the transition to a clean energy economy by providing income, benefit, and retraining for comparable wage jobs, as well as a bridge to retirement, as part of the just transition and concurrently support the creation of these policies in an equitable fashion.

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Position: FAV





**Maryland Senate - Finance Committee**

**Chair: Melony Griffith**  
**Vice Chair: Katherine Klausmeier**

**Senate Bill 0337 - Utility Contractors - Employment and Licensure - Requirements and Application**

**Position: Support**

The Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council supports SB 0337. The requirement to hold Utility Contractors to meet a minimum of apprenticeship training with wages, health insurance and pensions for their employees with an outreach for local hire and to provide an opportunity for returning citizens, women, which many are single head of households, minorities and veterans is a good use of our federal tax dollars. These jobs with fair wages and benefits will help to end the cycle of recidivism and the welfare state by providing an opportunity to a career and a middle income life. Those requirements and goals are good for Maryland and our citizens and our businesses. Senate Bill 0337 is a means to that end.

We urge the Committee for a favorable report. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeffry Guido

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- Insulators
- Boilermakers
- United Association
- Roofers
- Cement Masons
- Teamsters
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**SB 337 Support.pdf**  
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Position: FAV

# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

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Baltimore Port Council  
Baltimore Metro Council — AFL-CIO  
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Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO  
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National Safety Council



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FAX: 410-536-4338

## Written Testimony of

**Michael J. McHale, Business Manager, IBEW LOCAL 24**

**Before the Senate Finance Committee On**

**SB 337 Utility Contractors - Employment and Licensure - Requirements and Application**

### Support

February 15, 2023

Madame Chair Griffith and Committee Members,

My name is Michael McHale and I have the honor of being a member and Business Manager of IBEW Local 24 in Baltimore. I am writing to express my support of **Senate Bill 337**,

As an individual who deeply values the welfare of workers and the progress of our communities, I believe that this bill is vital in ensuring that the electrical transmission sector generates and maintains high-quality, family-supporting jobs. It is crucial to inspire corporations to create opportunities that offer decent pay and chances for workers to enhance and hone their skills. Moreover, this bill will guarantee that our neighborhoods reap the benefits of expert and experienced workers in this important field. I am confident that this will lead to an improved safety record, heightened efficiency, and a more dependable electrical system that benefits all.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote **favorably** on **Senate Bill 337** and help shape a brighter future for our State.

Sincerely,

Michael J. McHale

Business Manager IBEW Local 24

**DG\_Final Written Testimony\_SB337.pdf**

Uploaded by: Senator Gile

Position: FAV



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of SB337  
Utility Contractors – Employment and License – Requirements and Application**

Madame Chair and Fellow Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The electricity grid distributes energy from generation sources to homes, businesses, and other end users. The grid is comprised of lines, poles, transformers, circuits, substations, underground and overhead power lines, and more. The reliability and resilience of our grid not only hinges on strong physical infrastructure, but also well-supported human infrastructure.

Last year, the MGA passed the Climate Solutions Now Act. To meet ambitious climate goals, the law provides a framework for historic investments in our electricity distribution grid. The clean energy transition and projected increases in electrification of buildings and the transportation sector cannot happen without significant investments in the electrical grid over the next several decades.

Electrical lineworkers will be the people implementing these crucial improvements, updates, and maintenance projects. This bill will ensure that as we make the necessary investments in the grid, we are also investing in individuals, families, and communities.

This bill supports family sustaining jobs by requiring all electric distribution grid projects:

- Pay the area prevailing wage.
- Offer healthcare and retirement benefits.
- Participate in apprenticeship programs registered with the state or U.S. Department of Labor.
- Develop a plan to recruit and retain state residents, including returning citizens, minority individuals, women, and veterans.
- Comply with federal, state, and local wage and hour laws for the previous three years.

The prevailing wage rate is defined as the average wage paid to similarly employed workers in the same type of employment. In 2021, the MGA passed HB 174, which

required all investor-owned utilities to pay prevailing wages for underground utility work (gas and electric). This bill will establish parity so that all investor-owned utilities pay prevailing wages.

Beyond the immediate financial benefits to working families, requiring prevailing wages has several secondary benefits:

- Decreasing government spending on social safety-net services.<sup>1</sup>
- Stimulating the local economy and increasing state and local tax revenue.<sup>2</sup>
- Reducing occupational injuries and fatalities; lowering future maintenance and repair costs; and increasing the pool of skilled workers.<sup>3</sup>

This bill strengthens Maryland's ability to meet its climate goals, brings parity to the labor market for investor-owned utilities, while doing right for working families and the state's broader economy.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB337.

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<sup>1</sup> Waites, G.M. (2017). Prevailing Wage Law White Paper Review of Public Policy Research [White Paper]. O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue, LLP.

[http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/mpbn/files/201810/pw\\_white\\_paper-2017.pdf](http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/mpbn/files/201810/pw_white_paper-2017.pdf)

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<sup>2</sup> Belman, D. & Voos, P. (1995). Prevailing Wage Laws in Construction: The Costs of Repeal to Wisconsin. The Institute for Wisconsin's Future.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/237540504\\_Prevailing\\_Wage\\_Laws\\_in\\_Construction\\_The\\_Costs\\_of\\_Repeal\\_to\\_Wisconsin](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/237540504_Prevailing_Wage_Laws_in_Construction_The_Costs_of_Repeal_to_Wisconsin)

<sup>3</sup> Mahalia, Nooshin. "Prevailing wages and government contracting costs: A review of the research." 3 July 2008. <https://www.epi.org/publication/bp215>

# **SB337\_LOO\_Utility Contractors - Employment and Lic**

Uploaded by: Kevin O'Keeffe

Position: UNF



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8751 Freestate Drive  
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Laurel, MD 20723

February 16, 2023

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Oppose Senate Bill 337 – Utility Contractors - Employment and Licensure - Requirements and Application

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake opposes Senate Bill (SB) 337 and requests an unfavorable report.

IEC Chesapeake opposes SB337 because of the additional requirement of a contractor having to be in compliance with local wage and hour laws for the previous three years. The various local wage and hour laws differ across jurisdictions and it is possible that a contractor could inadvertently not be in compliance with these local laws. The potential confusion about complying with various local wage and hour laws should not result in a contractor being barred from working on an investor-owned electric company or gas and electric company project.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 1-301-621-9545, extension 114 or at [gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com](mailto:gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com) or Kevin O’Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at [kevin@kokeeffelaw.com](mailto:kevin@kokeeffelaw.com).

### **About Us**

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Our headquarters are located in Laurel, Maryland. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship program for training electricians. In addition, IEC Chesapeake promotes green economic growth by providing education and working with contractor members, industry partners, government policy makers and inspectors to increase the use of renewable energy.





# **SB 337 - Utility Contractors - Employment and Lice**

Uploaded by: Tom Ballentine

Position: UNF



February 15, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Oppose: SB 337 – Utility Contractors – Employment and Licensure**

Dear, Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The NAIOP Maryland Chapters represent more than 700 companies involved in all aspects of commercial, industrial, and mixed-use real estate. NAIOP's member companies appreciate the opportunity to offer comments and concerns on SB 337.

SB 337 expands the scope of prevailing wage on utility construction projects by removing the requirement that the projects be federally funded in order to be covered by the prevailing wage and work rules. The change means that prevailing wage now would apply to *"a project **undertaken** by an investor-owned electric company ....."* (pg. 1 line 20) It is unclear what *"undertaken"* means and whether our land development work to prepare the site for utility installation is covered by the bill's labor requirements.

During land development, NAIOP members enter into a utility service agreement with utility providers. Under the agreement the private development company prepares the site for utility installation by the utility company. The developer's contractors build underground vaults, conduit, and concrete pads. The utility company then does the final installation of transformers, pipes, and wires.

The Fiscal Note describes the small business impacts as follows: *"Complying with the bill's wage and labor standards record keeping and certification requirements is likely to meaningfully impact small contractors and subcontractors working on covered projects as well as small business renewable energy developers who may otherwise seek to construct a covered generating station."*

It is one thing to apply the provisions of SB 337 to a public utility that can socialize and recover the costs through user rates but applying the provisions of the bill to private development would, in our opinion, be burdensome.

Many of NAIOP's member companies have in-house construction divisions, others have long-standing relationships with third-party construction contractors that could be disrupted by applying SB 337 to construction activities associated with providing utility service to private development projects.

Should the committee decide to move SB 337 NAIOP requests that the committee take steps to narrow its scope.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Ballentine".

Tom Ballentine, Vice President for Policy  
NAIOP Maryland Chapters - *The Association for Commercial Real Estate*

cc: Finance Committee Members  
Nick Manis – Manis, Canning Assoc.