



House Bill 143

Committee: Ways and Means

Date: February 1, 2023

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Employ Prince George's, the principal workforce development entity for Prince George's County that provides nationally recognized community and workforce development programming, offers this testimony and amendments in support of House Bill 43: Career and Technical Education Committee - Alterations (HB 143). At Employ Prince George's, we deliver a demand-driven workforce system that generates economic mobility for workers, delivers qualified workers to businesses, and drives economic success for every Marylander.

HB 143 broadens the Career and Technical Education Committee membership to include representatives of skilled trade organizations and career colleges. Additionally, HB 143 requires the CTE Committee to compile and provide a list of programs offered by those same entities to public schools for distribution to students.

Employ Prince George's supports HB 143, but **we respectfully offer an amendment to include one representative of Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) on the CTE Committee.** Established in federal law by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, LWDBs provide career and technical education through diverse workforce development programs that prepare every Marylander to succeed in today's economy.

As the administrative and fiscal agent of the Prince George's County Workforce Development Board, Employ Prince George's is responsible for operating the Prince George's County Public Workforce System. Under the leadership of Employ Prince George's, the Prince George's County Public Workforce System serves **over 25,000** job seekers and businesses annually.

Including the Prince George's County Workforce Development Board, Maryland has thirteen (13) LWDBs that provide critical career and technical education services to tens of thousands of Marylanders annually, along with job posting and employee recruitment services to tens of thousands of businesses. Through that work, LWDBs have gained valuable insight and first-hand experience that would greatly benefit the CTE Committee. For this reason, Employ Prince George's respectfully requests the adoption of the amendment included below and a favorable report on House Bill 143.

Amendment:

On page 3, lines 6 and 18, and on page 5, line 5, insert “**(iv) local workforce development boards**” after “**career colleges,**” and on page 4, line 17, insert “**, local workforce development board programs,**” after “**skilled trade organization programs**”.