

## MWA Members

**Anne Arundel County**  
Anne Arundel Workforce  
Development Corporation  
Kirkland Murray, *Executive Director*

**Baltimore City**  
Mayor's Office of Employment  
Development  
MacKenzie Garvin, *Director*

**Baltimore County**  
Baltimore County Department of  
Economic and Workforce  
Development  
Neishall Schyler, *WIOA Ops.  
Manager*

**Carroll County**  
Carroll County Workforce  
Development  
Heather Lee Powell, *Manager*

**Frederick County**  
Frederick County Workforce  
Services  
Michelle Day, *Director*

**Howard County**  
Howard County Office of Workforce  
Development  
Francine Trout, *Director*

**Lower Shore**  
Lower Shore Workforce Alliance  
(Somerset, Wicomico, & Worcester,  
Counties)  
Leslie Porter-Cabell, *Workforce  
Director*

**Montgomery County** WorkSource  
Montgomery, Inc. Anthony  
Featherstone, *Executive Director*

**Prince George's County**  
Prince George's County Workforce  
Development Board Walter  
Simmons, *Executive Director*

**Southern Maryland**  
Southern Maryland Job Source  
(Calvert, Charles, & St. Mary's  
Counties)  
Ruthy Davis, *Director*

**Susquehanna Region**  
Susquehanna Workforce Network,  
Inc. (Cecil & Harford Counties)  
Kimberly Justus, *Executive Director*

**Upper Shore**  
Upper Shore Workforce Investment  
Board (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent,  
Queen Anne's, & Talbot Counties)  
Dan Schneckeburger, *Executive  
Director*

**Western Maryland**  
Western Maryland Consortium  
(Allegany, Garrett &  
Washington Counties)  
Deborah Gilbert, *Executive Director*

February 28, 2024

The Honorable C.T. Wilson, Chair  
House Economic Matters Committee  
Room 231 House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

The Maryland Workforce Association, an association of the 13 local workforce boards in Maryland, would like to express its **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** position on **House Bill 1128: Labor and Employment - Workforce Development - Talent Innovation Program and Funds**. While the Association supports the creation of the Talent Innovation Program and Fund, we respectfully request the bill be amended as follows:

On Pg. 4, Line 8-11:

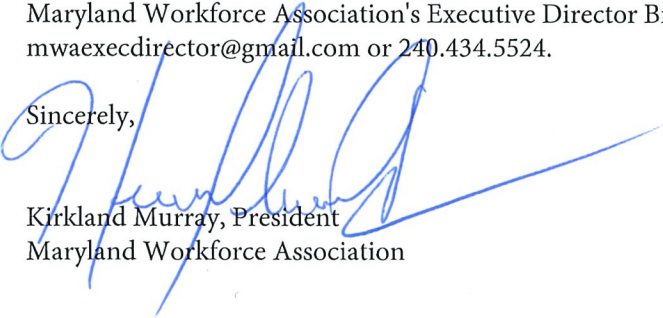
(1) *Provide Grants*

(1) *To entities, including employers, LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS, institutions of higher education, tax exempt organizations, public agencies, and Registered Apprenticeship Sponsors, and residents of the State; and*

While some workforce boards are tax exempt organizations and others are public agencies, we believe the express inclusion of the local workforce development boards demonstrates the State's intention to invest public dollars in the State's public workforce system. Some local workforce development boards are tax exempt organizations, while others are public agencies; however, we believe that this amendment is aligned with the sponsor's intent. As such, we request a Favorable report of this measure, with the included amendment.

For any questions or comments regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact the Maryland Workforce Association's Executive Director Brandon Butler at mwaexecdirector@gmail.com or 240.434.5524.

Sincerely,

  
Kirkland Murray, *President*  
Maryland Workforce Association