

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
Neishali Schyler, *MOA 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 Schneckenburger, *Executive
Director*

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

February 28, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance 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