

Signed 648.pdf

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Position: FAV

ARTHUR ELLIS, CPA
Legislative District 28
Charles County

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

Finance Committee

Senate Chair
Joint Committee on the
Management of Public Funds

Chair, Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert
Counties' Senate Delegation



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February 15, 2024

**Testimony of Senator Arthur Ellis in Support of Senate Bill 648: Business Regulation –
Contractors, Subcontractors, and Brokers – Prohibited Conduct**

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

Senate Bill 648 prohibits a person from serving or acting as a broker between a contractor and subcontractor during the 5-year period immediately following the date the person was convicted of an offense constituting criminal malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance under any federal or State law.

I urge your favorable report on Senate Bill 648.

Yours in Service,


Arthur Ellis – District 28

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February 15, 2024

**Testimony of Senator Arthur Ellis in Support of Senate Bill 647: Abandoned Cemeteries
Fund – Establishment and Income Tax Checkoff**

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

Senate Bill 647 establishes the Abandoned Cemeteries Fund to provide for the care, preservation, maintenance, and restoration of abandoned cemeteries in the State; establishes a certain income tax checkoff for voluntary contributions to the Abandoned Cemeteries Fund; and requires the Comptroller to include a checkoff on individual income tax return forms for voluntary contributions to the Fund and to include certain information in each individual income tax return package.

I urge your favorable report on Senate Bill 647.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arthur Ellis" with a small "AB" monogram at the end.

Arthur Ellis – District 28

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Uploaded by: Sarah Roth

Position: FAV



February 15, 2024

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

The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier
Vice Chair, Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Beidle and Vice Chair Klausmeier,

I would like to express my full support for *Senate Bill 648 - Business Regulation - Contractors, Subcontractors, and Brokers - Prohibited Conduct*.

Wage theft is one of the most challenging obstacles that many workers in Maryland, especially those in the Building Trades industry, face every single day. There is an estimated \$60 million in wage theft yearly in Maryland and tactics can vary - theft can look as simple as failing to pay minimum wage, prevailing wage, or overtime, or as complex as misclassifying workers based on the type of work completed.

There is no question: Those who engage in wage theft are stealing money from the pockets of their workers. Period. This issue is far more widespread in Maryland than it should be, and is one that must be rectified immediately for the sake of all Marylanders.

SB648 moves Maryland forward by prohibiting a person from serving or acting as a broker between a contractor and subcontractor during the 5-year period immediately following the date the person was convicted of an offense constituting criminal malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance under any federal or State law.

It is my hope that by creating meaningful sanctions for bad actors in Maryland, they will be encouraged to think twice before stealing from their hardworking employees and committing other criminal offenses as an employer. And if those bad actors ignore this new legislation and continue to work in bad faith, then there is no place for them in the State of Maryland. We will continue to move forward and build without them.

For these reasons, I strongly urge this committee to give *Senate Bill 648 - Business Regulation - Contractors, Subcontractors, and Brokers - Prohibited Conduct* the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Trone", is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

David Trone
Member of Congress

SB 648 Support 2024.pdf

Uploaded by: Tom Clark

Position: FAV



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

JOSEPH F. DABBS: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
CHRISTOPHER M. CASH: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • PAULO C. HENRIQUES: Treasurer



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 648 BUSINESS REGULATION-CONTRACTORS, SUBCONTRACTORS, and BROKERS-PROHIBITED CONDUCT

February 16, 2024

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier and Finance Committee

FROM: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and distinguished members of the Senate Finance Committee. I encourage you to **support SB 648**, a bill designed to address the ever-growing wage theft problem. A problem that unfortunately affects the immigrant community and all those underrepresented in the construction field.

In 2024, Maryland legislators shy away from crimes punishable by prison sentences. I often agree with that sentiment and hope to protect those most vulnerable. The beauty of SB 648, is that it does not call for jail time, rather a ban from operating as a labor broker. Not those accused, but those convicted of malfeasance under federal or state law. This piece of legislation is designed to safeguard well-meaning tradespeople against corrupt contractors, sub-contractors and brokers.

Please join me in **support of SB 648**. Thank you.

Chartered 1892
Washington, D.C.

