

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 850

TO: Senate Finance Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor)
DATE: March 25, 2025
BILL: Workgroup on the Creation of a Data Dashboard for Public Work Contracts and Apprentices - Establishment

MDL POSITION: INFORMATIONAL

The Department of Labor appreciates and shares the mission of increasing public access to data reported by contractors on publicly-financed projects, including data regarding apprentices, contractors, and wages. We expect that greater visibility into these activities would promote accountability, create efficiencies, and increase compliance with the law.

As envisioned by HB 850, the Workgroup would collaborate to evaluate and recommend options for a public-facing “data dashboard” to include information on publicly-funded projects in Maryland, including information about the project, the contractors/subcontractors, any Registered Apprentice workers, and wages paid.

To the extent that the data identified in the bill is collected or maintained at all, it is housed within different units in different divisions. For example, the Division of Labor and Industry (DLI) receives payroll records from contractors on public works projects; however, the application that accepts those records has very limited public-facing capabilities – and very limited functionality overall. And DLI does not keep records related to Registered Apprenticeship: that data is kept by the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL). There is currently no integration of DLI’s and DWDAL’s databases.

Greater integration, and greater public accessibility, of these records would result in key efficiencies. The system would reduce the time DLI spends manually responding to requests for payroll records and the time that DWDAL spends verifying Registered Apprenticeships on prevailing wage contracts, allowing both DLI and DWDAL staff to focus on other work.

Additionally, a public dashboard could lead to more oversight of public works projects, resulting in more prompt identification of issues such as worker misclassification, contributions to the unemployment insurance fund, etc. Furthermore, other agencies could utilize the dashboard for enforcement of taxation and workers compensation claims, potentially saving the State money while also increasing revenue.

The Department welcomes the opportunity to engage with other stakeholders and experts to develop concrete and cost-effective options to achieve the aim of greater public transparency and accountability.

The Department respectfully requests the Committee consider this information on HB 850.

For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti, at **Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov**.