

## **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  
Jonathan Sachs, *Director*

**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  
Stephanie Adibe, *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 McDermott, *Interim Executive  
Director*

**Western Maryland**  
Western Maryland Consortium  
(Allegany, Garrett &  
Washington Counties)  
Amos McCoy, *Interim Executive  
Director*

March 5, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair  
House Ways and Means Committee  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Workforce Association (MWA), we respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of House Bill 1264. MWA represents the 13 local workforce development areas across Maryland, each dedicated to equipping jobseekers with critical skills and connecting employers with a talent pipeline that is prepared for the challenges of the modern labor market.

By allowing advanced computer science or rigorous computer programming courses to count toward a student's mathematics credit requirement—provided the student is concurrently enrolled in or has completed Algebra II—HB 1264 aligns with the growing national emphasis on digital literacy and technical competency. As the demands of Maryland's economy continue to shift toward science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields, it is imperative that our students graduate ready to pursue higher-level education or enter the workforce with competitive skills.

Maryland's high-growth industries—especially in technology, cybersecurity, health sciences, and advanced manufacturing—require a workforce adept in problem-solving, coding, and data analysis. Computer science education cultivates these critical competencies. Providing high school students an early foundation not only boosts their employability after graduation but also ensures that the state's future workforce can meet the evolving needs of our employers.

In-Demand Skills Including computer science and programming courses as part of the mathematics pathway democratizes access to these high-demand skills for all students, regardless of background. By integrating computer science more fully into the standard curriculum, Maryland can help ensure that students from diverse communities are not left behind in a rapidly digitizing economy. This will enhance both short- and long-term economic prosperity and bolster our state's competitiveness.

The Maryland Workforce Association works closely with businesses, community colleges, and universities to ensure alignment between the educational system and employer needs. HB 1264 paves the way for a generation of graduates who are already conversant with the coding, analytical reasoning, and computational thinking that employers demand. This will help sustain Maryland's leadership in key sectors such as cybersecurity, fintech, biotech, and other technology-driven industries.

House Bill 1264 supports Maryland's students, strengthens our talent pipeline, and bolsters our state's economic future. The Maryland Workforce Association applauds the sponsors of this legislation for their foresight and leadership in making computer science education a strategic component of our statewide workforce development agenda.

For these reasons, the Maryland Workforce Association respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 1264.

Respectfully,

Brandon Butler  
Executive Director  
Maryland Workforce Association