



February 27, 2026

To: Members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support House Bill (HB) 954 - State Finance and Procurement - Retention Proceeds

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents approximately 150 electrical contractors who employ approximately 9,000 workers in the mid-Atlantic region. In addition, IEC Chesapeake has approximately 1,300 registered apprentices in the electrical trade.

IEC Chesapeake supports HB954 and requests a favorable report. HB954 requires a unit of government or contractor to pay undisputed retention proceeds within 90 days after the substantial completion of a project. This legislation would benefit contractors with their cash flow by making monies owed to them available within 90 days.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 301-646-0197 or at gshmelzer@iecchesapeake.com or Kevin O’Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at kevin@kokeeffelaw.com.

About Us

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Our headquarters are located in Laurel, Maryland. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship program for training electricians. In addition, IEC Chesapeake promotes green economic growth by providing education and working with contractor members, industry partners, government policy makers and inspectors to increase the use of renewable energy.