



T 301.621.9545
800.470.3013
F 301.912.1665
www.iecchesapeake.com

8751 Freestate Drive
Suite 250
Laurel, MD 20723

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To: Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Oppose House Bill 123 – Labor and Employment – Wage History and Wage Range

IEC Chesapeake opposes HB123 because it believes that the setting of wages and the sharing of information about perspective employee wage history and range should be free from government intervention. IEC Chesapeake believes HB123 would compel businesses to alter their job applications if they currently ask for wage history. This legislation could result in prolonging the wage negotiation process. In addition, employers would have to shoulder additional costs to implement new personnel training systems to comply with HB123. The proposed civil penalties of \$500 to \$5,000 for violations of this proposed legislation are excessive. For the above reasons, IEC Chesapeake requests an unfavorable report on HB123.

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, 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.

Thanks for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 301-621-9545, extension 114 or at gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com or Kevin O’Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at kevin@kokeeffelaw.com.

