

MARYLAND WORKFORCE ALLIANCE

HB1029

Clean Energy Jobs - Workforce Development - Scope Position: FAVORABLE, with amendments

Chair Davis and Honorable Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

The Maryland Workforce Alliance (MWA) is a statewide, multi-industry coalition representing 36 labor unions, trade associations, and apprenticeship providers¹ all working towards the common goal of building a world class workforce in Maryland by instituting robust Career & Technical Education classes integrated with registered apprenticeship programs. We work to bridge the skills gap; address critical employment shortages in key fields; and forge pathways that connect employers, apprenticeship sponsors, and job seekers.

MWA endorses HB1029, expanding “the scope of apprenticeship programs that may receive certain support through the Clean Energy Workforce Account from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund for clean energy industry development²”. Among other industries, Clean Energy Jobs are the jobs of the future and they will require significant workforce training to meet the needs of a growing market. It is critical that we expand the scope of the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA), which MWA also endorsed, so apprenticeship and training programs in the energy efficiency sector³ are eligible to receive grant funding allocated in the CEJA. In current law, CEJA grants are only available to apprenticeships in the solar and wind sectors, which is a great start, but does not go far enough. An important strategy to conserve energy so we can meet the State’s emissions

¹ See: mdworkforcealliance.com/members

² Quote from the bill summary on the MD General Assembly website

³ Including but not limited to HVAC; geothermal; and building trades such as carpenters, insulators, etc.

reduction goals outlined in CEJA is to invest in creating jobs in energy efficiency sectors. HB1029 does not increase the fiscal note of CEJA, rather it is a simple fix that expands eligibility for existing grant funds.

Right now in Maryland, there are only 65 students participating in registered youth apprenticeship programs, and we need to significantly increase that number. MWA believes HB1029 will help achieve that goal because young people in particular are especially concerned about the climate crisis, and they want to be proactive about reducing the harmful impacts of climate change. Expanding apprenticeships in the renewable energy sector is a proactive method for students to pursue their passion for mitigating climate change while maintaining a career in a high-wage, high-growth sector.

Furthermore, this legislation will continue to make Maryland a leader in growing the renewable energy industry, which will attract employers who will create more jobs for hard working Marylanders.

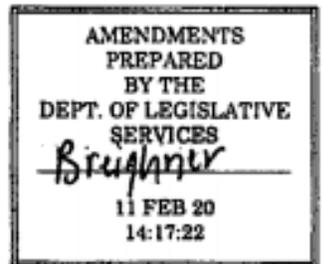
We request the Committee issue a favorable report, with amendments, on HB1029. The amendments will ensure that the building trades, who are also involved with energy efficiency work, are included in the CEJA grant eligibility expansion. Please reconcile HB1029 to match the amendments that passed in the Senate cross-file, SB224. Our proposed amendments are attached to this testimony. Thank you.

Respectfully,

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SB0224/123128/3



BY: Senator Rosapepe
(To be offered in the Finance Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 224
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike beginning with "defining" in line 5 down through "term" in line 6 and substitute "requiring certain apprenticeship and training programs to comply with certain rules, regulations, and a certain program; altering the definition of "clean energy industry" by expanding the list of included professions that provide certain products and services; providing that certain funds from the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund designated for a specific purpose be reallocated for the recruitment of veterans and formerly incarcerated individuals into certain apprenticeship programs"; in line 20, strike "and (d)"; and in line 25, after "Section" insert "9-20B-01(d) and".

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, in line 25, after "programs" insert ":

1. SHALL COMPLY WITH:

A. ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP AND YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP STANDARD FOR SPONSORSHIP; AND

B. THE MARYLAND APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING PROGRAM; AND

in line 26, after "ENERGY EFFICIENCY," insert "GEOTHERMAL"; and after line 26, insert:

"(IV) THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO ALTER OR AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "YOUTH APPRENTICE" OR "REGISTERED APPRENTICE" AS DEFINED BY THE MARYLAND APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY."

On page 4, in line 7, strike "and"; in line 8, after "auditors;" insert:

"(V) CARPENTERS;

(VI) PILE-DRIVER OPERATORS;

(VII) MILLWRIGHTS;

(VIII) INSULATION WORKERS; AND

(IX) WELL DRILLERS;"

in line 16, strike "\$1,500,000" and substitute "\$1,250,000"; in line 18, strike "and"; in line 19, strike "\$6,500,000" and substitute "\$6,000,000"; and in line 22, after "and" insert:

"(III) \$750,000 FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF VETERANS AND FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS TO THE PRE-APPRENTICESHIP JOBS TRAINING PROGRAMS AND THE REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP JOBS TRAINING PROGRAMS UNDER § 11-708.1 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE STARTING IN FISCAL YEAR 2021 UNTIL ALL AMOUNTS ARE SPENT; AND"