

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Dereck Davis
Chairman, House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for House Bill 1141 (Labor and Employment - Apprenticeship Career Training Pilot Program for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals - Report)

Dear Chairman Davis:

The Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, supports House Bill 1141 (Labor and Employment - Apprenticeship Career Training Pilot Program for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals - Report).

This measure simply requires the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to annually report the progress of the Apprenticeship Career Training Pilot Program for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals which passed in 2019 to the General Assembly.

MBIA testified in favor of this Program last year, stating that it is a creative solution to two present and pressing societal and economic problems. The construction industry is currently experiencing a labor shortage despite the availability of fair wages and steady work. Home building slows without a strong labor force, keeping families from building strong communities and stunting economic progress in the State. This program benefits all involved: it provides an opportunity for individuals ready and willing to work to learn a trade, enter the job market, earn a sustainable income, and contribute to the economic development of the State.

MBIA is in favor of initiatives that support this Program, and is confident the annual report will demonstrate the Program's success.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: House Economic Matters Committee Members