



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 Senate Finance Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support for Senate Bill 419 – Labor and Employment – Grant Program for Workforce Skills Assessment

IEC Chesapeake supports Senate Bill (SB) 419 and requests a favorable report. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship training program to develop skilled electricians. There is, and will continue to be, a severe shortage of workers in the skilled trades. SB419 would establish a workforce skills assessment program in the Maryland Department of Labor. This program would assist employers in gaining a better understanding the skill levels of their employees. The assessments of employees' skills could result in individuals joining apprenticeship program in the skilled trades. IEC Chesapeake is always looking to expand its apprenticeship training program for electricians.

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.

