



# WESTERN MARYLAND CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

152-154 N. Mechanic Street, Cumberland, MD 21502  
PHONE: 301-777-1820 FAX: 301-777-0121  
EMAIL: westmdclc@verizon.net

March 12, 2020

*President*  
GEORGE KOONTZ

*Vice President*  
LARRY KASECAMP

*Secretary - Treasurer*  
IAN REIKIE

*Executive Board*  
JACK DAVIS  
RODNEY RICE  
MATT ROSS  
SCOTT UPOLE  
JASON WEAVER

*Cope Director*  
JODY OLIVER

The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair and  
Members of the Senate Finance Committee

## Support Testimony: SB-991

Madam Chair and members of the committee, I want to thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB-991**, titled "*Apprenticeship and Training Council – Journeyworker–Apprentice Ratios – Electrical Craft or Trade.*"

My name is George Koontz and I am President of the Western Maryland Central Labor Council of the Maryland State & D.C. AFL-CIO. Our jurisdiction is Allegany and Garrett counties in Western Maryland. Our affiliates members work in all areas of employment and are represented by dozens of different labor organizations.

SB-991 would require the Apprenticeship and Training Council to adopt regulations establishing a ratio of not less than one journeyworker employed at a work site for each apprentice employed in the electrical craft or trade. This ratio is needed in order to provide for the direct supervision, instruction, and safety of apprentices.

It also requires employers in the electrical craft or trade to comply with the regulations once adopted and requires the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to investigate suspected violations and take certain actions.

Most employers in all fields of employment have as their number one priority **safety**. This legislation is all about providing a safe workplace where apprentices can be assured their safety is be looked after while being directly supervised and instructed on learning the skills needed to be a safe and qualified worker when their training is completed.

On behalf of the Western Maryland Central Labor Council and all our affiliates we urge your committee to give a favorable report to SB-991.

Sincerely,

*George A. Koontz*

President WMCLC