

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

CHOICE Building Trades Council — AFL-CIO

Baltimore Port Council

Baltimore Metro Council — AFL-CIO

Central MD Labor Council — AFL-CIO

Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO

Maryland State - D.C. — AFL-CIO

National Safety Council



AFL-CIO-CLC

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

JOHN L. RANKIN, President

DAVID W. SPRINGHAM, JR., Recording Secretary

MICHAEL J. McHALE, Financial Secretary

PETER P. DEMCHUK, Business Manager

OFFICE:

2701 W. PATAPSCO AVENUE

SUITE 200

Phone: 410-247-5511

800-348-3721

FAX: 410-536-4338

Testimony of

Peter Demchuk, Business Manager, IBEW, LOCAL 24

Before the

Finance Committee

On

SB-991— Apprenticeship and Training Council-
Journey Worker-Apprentice-Ratios-
Electrical Craft or Trade

Strongly Support

March 11, 2020

Dear Madam Chair Kelly and Committee Members,

For the record, my name is Peter Demchuk. I am a lifelong resident of Maryland currently residing in District 7 of Baltimore County. I am a 40 year member, and Business Manager, of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 24 located in Baltimore. I represent approximately 2000 hardworking, Maryland tax paying electricians. I started as an apprentice in 1979 and have held numerous positions over the years. The reason I give my background is to show my commitment to not only my profession but to all working men and women in Maryland.

In my opinion SB-991 is necessary to protect apprentices working as electricians from injury or even death! In 2017 24/7 Wall St. reviewed workplace fatality rates by occupation to identify the 25 most dangerous jobs. Below are the results for an Electrician.

25. ELECTRICIAN

- **Fatal injuries in 2017:** 8.4 per 100,000 workers
- **Total:** 74 fatal injuries, 4,890 nonfatal injuries
- **Most common fatal accidents:** Falls, slips, trips
- **Median annual wage:** \$54,110

Electricians fix and install power, communications, lighting and control systems in homes, businesses, factories and more. 74 fatal accidents experienced by the group in 2017. About 1 percent of injuries incurred on the job are fatal, nearly twice the 0.6 percent national average.

Besides the safety issue there is an issue with competitive advantage bidding work with a 2 to 1 ratio. Currently there is only one program that permits two apprentices to work under the direction of one Journeyman. Apprentices are paid as low as 40% of the Journeyman rate of pay. Two apprentices at 40% pay and one Journeyman at 100% (2 to 1) vs one apprentice at 40% and Journeyman at 100%, (1 to 1) the next person on the job needs to be a Journeyman at 100%, the third person on the job could cost 60% more!

Please help to protect the safety of electrical apprentices and level the playing field for ALL electrical apprenticeship programs!

Please give SB-991 a favorable report.

Thank you,



Peter P. Demchuk

PPD:CLR
AFL-CIO
OPEIU # 2