



January 28, 2021

The Voice of Merit Construction

Mike Henderson

*President
Greater Baltimore Chapter
mhenderson@abcbaltimore.org*

Chris Garvey

*President & CEO
Chesapeake Shores Chapter
cgarvey@abc-chesapeake.org*

Debra D. Livingston CAE

*President & CEO
Metro Washington Chapter
dlivingston@abcmetrowashington.org*

Amos McCoy

*President & CEO
Cumberland Valley Chapter
amos@abccvc.com*

Mark McDaniel

*Chairman
Joint Legislative Committee
mmcdaniel@nlpentinc.com*

Marcus Jackson

*Director of Government Affairs
Metro Washington Chapter
mjackson@abcmetrowashington.org*

*Additional representation by:
Harris Jones & Malone, LLC*

6901 Muirkirk Meadows Drive
Suite F
Beltsville, MD 20705
(T) (301) 595-9711
(F) (301) 595-9718

TO: ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

FROM: ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS

RE: HB 64 – LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH - HANDWASHING FACILITIES ON CONSTRUCTION SITES

POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) support HB 64 which requires employers operating construction sites in the State to provide an adequate handwashing facility on the construction sites; requiring that the handwashing facilities include potable water, be in an accessible location, be adequate for the number of workers, and be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition; requiring the employers to allow workers on the construction sites to have reasonable access to the handwashing facilities during the workday.

While we support the intent of the bill, we feel that the legislation duplicates the OSHA standards on handwashing as found in federal regulation 1926.51 - Sanitation, specifically Section (f) which concerns hand washing facilities. The OSHA regulations states that the employer shall provide adequate washing facilities for employees engaged in the application of paints, coating, herbicides, or insecticides, or in other operations where contaminants may be harmful to the employees. Such facilities shall be in near proximity to the worksite and shall be so equipped as to enable employees to remove such substances. While the language of the existing OSHA standard sounds limiting, the interpretations over the last 30 years indicate that OSHA's intent and the intent of HB 64 are the same.

On behalf of the over 1,500 ABC business members in Maryland, we respectfully request a favorable report with two amendments on HB 64. First the elimination of the word "reasonable" from paragraph (c)(2) and the addition of paragraph (d) Use of antiseptic hand cleaner if handwashing facilities are not feasible, such as mobile crews or construction sites where running water or temporary handwashing stations are not readily available.

Marcus Jackson, Director,
Government Affairs.