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To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Oppose Senate Bill 728 – Labor and Employment – Worker Safety and Health
– Injury and Illness Prevention Program

IEC Chesapeake opposes Senate Bill (SB) 728 and asks for an unfavorable report. IEC Chesapeake believes that SB728 is unnecessary. There are currently Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) regulations to address safety issues in the workplace. SB728 applies to businesses with a minimum of ten employees and who have a rate of injury and illness higher than the average of all industries in Maryland. The affected businesses would have to establish a Health and Safety Committee with an equal number of managerial and non-managerial employees. The committee must have a minimum of quarterly meetings. There are training, inspection, and record keeping requirements. IEC Chesapeake believes that during these challenging times for businesses to remain viable, it is unwise public policy to place additional financial and administrative burdens on businesses.

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.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 1-301-621-9545, extension 114 or at gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com or Kevin O’Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at kevin@kokeeffelaw.com.

