

# **HB1000\_OSP\_FAV\_EHE.pdf**

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# **House Bill 1000 - SUPPORT**

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**Senate Education, Health,  
and Environmental Affairs  
Committee**

April 5, 2022

Haley Holik  
*Visiting Fellow*  
Opportunity Solutions Project

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Opportunity Solutions Project (OSP), a non-profit dedicated to advancing policies that remove barriers to work. OSP supports House Bill 1000 because it creates an alternative pathway to licensure for certain occupations.

The typical licensing model requires individuals to pay an institution to train for a career. The upfront investment in time and money can be a challenge for many people, especially for those lower on the economic ladder.<sup>1</sup> Maryland can diverge from this model by allowing workers to earn their state license through federally approved apprenticeships.<sup>2</sup>

Under HB 1000, applicants would be issued a license if they complete a government-approved apprenticeship program and pass requisite state-level exams. Background checks and licensing fees would still apply.

Some trades already utilize the apprenticeship model as a pathway to credentials. HB 1000 applies the earn-and-learn framework to other jobs with state licensing requirements, providing more people the opportunity to take home a paycheck while working toward their license.

For example, hearing aid dispenser is a licensed occupation covered by HB 1000, with an average salary in Maryland of \$45,780 a year.<sup>3</sup> Currently, a person must invest two years to become a credentialed hearing aid dispenser in Maryland.<sup>4</sup> HB 1000 would make it possible to cut that time in half under a federally approved apprenticeship.<sup>5</sup>

Right now, Maryland has more than 200,000 open jobs.<sup>6</sup> States like Iowa, Tennessee, Idaho, Missouri, and Arkansas have made it easier for businesses to fill open jobs with this policy, and Maryland should follow suit by advancing HB 1000.

Haley Holik, *Visiting Fellow*

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<sup>1</sup> Jared Meyer, "How Occupational Licensing Inhibits Economic Opportunity," Foundation for Government Accountability (2017), <https://thefga.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/How-Occupational-Licensing-Inhibits-Economic-Opportunity-10-23-17.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Jonathan Bain et al., "Expanded Apprenticeships: The Untapped Potential in the Pathway to Work," Foundation for Government Accountability (2018), <https://thefga.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Expanded-Apprenticeships-The-Untapped-Potential-in-the-Pathway-to-Work.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, "May 2020 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates: Maryland," U.S. Department of Labor (2020), [https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_md.htm#00-0000](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_md.htm#00-0000).

<sup>4</sup> Maryland.Gov, "Hearing Aid Dispensers: Qualifications for Licensure," Maryland Department of Health (2022), <https://health.maryland.gov/boardsahs/Pages/hearinqual.aspx>.

<sup>5</sup> Apprenticeship.Gov, "Hearing Aid Specialist," U.S. Department of Labor (2022), <https://www.apprenticeship.gov/apprenticeship-occupations/listings?occupationCode=29-2092.00>.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Job openings levels and rates for total nonfarm by state, seasonally adjusted," U.S. Department of Labor (2022), [https://www.bls.gov/news.release/jltst.t01.htm#jltst\\_tbl1.f.p](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/jltst.t01.htm#jltst_tbl1.f.p).

# **HB1000\_Del\_Harrison\_FAV.pdf**

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Written testimony for HB 1000 – Maryland Earn and Learn Act of 2022  
as presented to  
Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee  
April 5, 2022

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, I am here today asking for a favorable report on HB 1000 – Maryland Earn and Learn Act of 2022. This bill allows a licensing authority to issue a license to an applicant if an applicant completes a federally-approved apprenticeship and passes state-levels exams. The apprenticeship must meet minimum federal standards and have been approved by one of the following: US Department of Labor apprenticeship agency, Maryland apprenticeship agency or other federally-recognized state apprenticeship agency.

Like many of you, I've always placed a great deal of value in work. It pays the bills and keeps the lights on. But work means so much more than

that. There is a sense of accomplishment in a day's work, or seeing the fruits of your labor.

When people work to their potential, they're not only more self-sufficient, they're also happier. That's what this bill aims to do: make it easier for people to get on their desired career track in order to earn a living and pay their bills. It does this by making fair, commonsense reforms to the apprenticeship-to-license process in Maryland.

Maryland is among a group of states that administers its system of apprenticeships. Some trades already use apprenticeships as a steppingstone to becoming fully licensed professionals, and I have consulted with trades on this legislation. They've carved a path for licensure-by-apprenticeship in Maryland, and I want to make sure that more people are afforded the same opportunity in this state—so that people can get the jobs they want, businesses can help fill open jobs, and we can keep growing our economy.

The Earn to Learn act of 2022 is simple: a person can get licensed in Maryland, so long as they complete a federally-approved apprenticeship in a job and pass state licensing exams. If someone earns a license via an apprenticeship path, they will be held to the same standard as their

colleagues. They will follow the same rules, pay the same fees, and be governed by the same licensing board.

The typical path to a license requires a person to pay for education and training. This can be expensive. This bill doesn't eliminate government-approved training for workers. And it doesn't upend the traditional path to licensure. Instead, the bill creates another path for licensed jobs. It allows people to work toward their license through on-the-job training, all while taking home a paycheck. The bill also protects apprentices from discrimination, as it prevents apprentices from taking exams or paying fees that aren't required to other licensure applicants.

The Maryland Earn and Learn Act of 2022 will strengthen the apprenticeship system in Maryland by opening up apprenticeship opportunities to workers and job creators. Based on the above information I am asking for a favorable report on HB 1000.