



House Bill 652

Committee: Ways and Means
Date: March 3, 2022
Position: Favorable

This testimony is offered on behalf of the Maryland Multi-Housing Association (MMHA). MMHA is a professional trade association established in 1996, whose members consist of owners and managers of more than 210,000 rental housing homes in over 958 apartment communities. Our members house over 538,000 residents of the State of Maryland. MMHA also represents over 250 associate member companies who supply goods and services to the multi-housing industry.

House Bill 652 (“HB 652”) requires schools to inform students of apprenticeship opportunities in the same way schools inform students of postsecondary education opportunities. Further, HB 652 requires schools that pay for postsecondary education tests to allocate funding for apprenticeship exams.

Apprenticeships provide sustainable and gainful employment opportunities throughout Maryland. **MMHA’s Service Training Academy (STA) trains multiple cohorts annually at NO cost to participants and connects participants with maintenance technician positions at apartment communities that pay sustainable wages and offer full benefits.** The STA currently offers free training to participants, opportunities for continuing education to graduates, and connection to industry certifications. MMHA is working closely with Employ Prince George’s to establish the STA as an apprenticeship program within Maryland’s housing industry.

With the passage of HB 652, the STA would quickly connect more participants from Maryland’s schools to employment and provide an opportunity to grow a career within Maryland’s housing industry. In addition to a sustainable wage, STA graduates that obtain employment are offered full benefits by their employers, including access to reduced-price or even free housing. As such, HB 652 establishes a valuable system of information that connects students with careers in Maryland’s housing industry. **For this reason, MMHA respectfully requests a favorable report from the committee.**

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