

SAMUEL I. "SANDY" ROSENBERG  
*Legislative District 41*  
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations  
Committee

*Chair*

Health Occupations and  
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

*House Chair*

Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Respond to Office Indicated

☐ *Annapolis Office*  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 365  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3297 · 301-858-3297  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3297  
Samuel.Rosenberg@house.state.md.us

☐ *District Office*  
4811 Liberty Heights Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21207  
410-664-2646

Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg

Before the House Appropriations Committee

in Support of House Bill 1128

**Economic Development - Maryland Stadium Authority –  
Baltimore City Infrastructure Projects**

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The infrastructure challenges plaguing Baltimore are well documented:

- We have 4,000 miles of water and sewer lines that have 800 water main breaks a year, but only enough money to repair 15 miles of those lines annually.
- Our roads, bridges, and tunnels have deteriorated to the point that transportation experts estimate that it would take \$2 billion in construction and maintenance just to bring them up to a basic level of adequacy.
- At least 20 percent of our residents do not have high-speed internet access at home.

Though widely lamented, there have been few proposals for addressing these infrastructure problems on a scale that would make a major impact. Investing in people, however, could be the key to fixing Baltimore's infrastructure.

By creating a program of bond initiatives focused on Baltimore infrastructure and tied to apprenticeship programs, we could provide funding and a skilled workforce to focus on our infrastructure needs at a much broader scale than has been possible in the past. At the same time, we could provide thousands of Baltimore residents with a pathway to a career that would provide economic security for them and their families.

House Bill 1128 would authorize the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue up to \$1 billion in bonds to finance Baltimore City infrastructure projects, including water lines, roads, bridges, open space, and broadband connectivity. Each project would be required to utilize a certain percentage of apprentices, specified by the Maryland Department of Labor.

To accomplish these goals, this bill would establish a Baltimore City Infrastructure Projects Financing Fund, with an annual budget of \$58 million provided by the Governor.

Though the initial price tag is substantial, the economic mobility that would accrue to participating apprentices would lead to increased tax revenue for the state and reduced costs for public benefits.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report for HB 1128.

March 16, 2023