



EMPLOY PRINCE GEORGE'S
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Senate Bill 879

Committee: Budget and Tax

Date: March 28, 2023

Position: Favorable

This testimony is offered on behalf of Employ Prince George's, the principal workforce development entity for Prince George's County that provides nationally recognized community and workforce development programming. At Employ Prince George's, we deliver a demand-driven workforce system that generates economic mobility for workers, delivers qualified workers to businesses, and drives economic success for every Marylander.

As the administrative and fiscal agent of the Prince George's County Workforce Development Board, Employ Prince George's is responsible for operating the Prince George's County Public Workforce System, which serves over 25,000 job seekers and businesses annually. Employ Prince George's offers a diverse portfolio of workforce development programs that have demonstrated success training and connecting constituents to careers and opportunities that promote economic mobility and ensure success in today's workforce. As a result, Employ Prince George's fully supports Senate Bill 879's (SB 879) expansion of workforce opportunities for all Marylanders.

To connect more Marylanders to sustainable careers within the lottery and gaming industry, SB 879 establishes eligibility criteria for local workforce development boards (LWDB) to access expanded funding for workforce development programs. Specifically, SB 879 defines eligible LWDBs as those that provide career counseling for middle and high school students, prioritize apprenticeships beginning in high school, aid employers in accessing ASVAB scores, and provide career counseling for adults.

Maryland has thirteen (13) LWDBs that provide valuable workforce services in every region of the state and annually connect tens of thousands of Marylanders to sustainable careers. Codified in federal and state law, LWDBs work with businesses to build a competitive workforce, administer apprenticeship programs, and design tailored workforce development programs to that serve numerous industries. At Employ Prince George's jobseekers have access to a diverse portfolio of programs, including but not limited to programs that directly connect jobseekers to careers in Maryland's healthcare, construction, hospitality, cybersecurity, and housing industries.

By providing additional funding opportunities for LWDBs that meet certain eligibility criteria, SB 879 ensures that more Marylanders have access to economic mobility and sustainable career opportunities. **For the aforementioned reasons, Employ Prince George's respectfully requests a favorable report from the Committee on SB 879.**