



EMPLOY PRINCE GEORGE'S
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Walter L. Simmons, President

House Bill 229

Committee: Economic Matters

Date: February 7, 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 Prince George's County resident and business.

To facilitate connection to gainful employment and career training opportunities, House Bill 229 (HB 229) directs the Commissioner of Labor (Commissioner), upon receiving consent, to share certain contact information with local workforce development boards (LWDBs) for minors that have a work permit and are at least 16 years old. Established in federal law by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, LWDBs provide career and technical education through a diverse portfolio of workforce development programs that prepare every Marylander to succeed in today's economy.

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. Under the leadership of Employ Prince George's, the Prince George's County Public Workforce System serves over 25,000 job seekers and businesses annually.

LWDBs connect Marylanders to sustainable careers, provide excellent career and technical training, and offer opportunities to join apprenticeship programs. By expanding awareness of the critical workforce development programs being offered at LWDBs, HB 229 helps ensure that more Marylanders are connected to gainful employment and rewarding career opportunities. **For the aforementioned reasons, Employ Prince George's respectfully requests a favorable report from the Committee.**