

MDL_SB 23_Support.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Andrew Fulginiti

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 23

Date: 1/26/2023
Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment
Bill Title: Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Services - Journeyman License - Qualifications
Re: Letter of Support

The Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) houses the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensng, which licenses the HVAC industry, as well as the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL), which is the state’s designated Registered Apprenticeship entity. MDL views SB 23 as a favorable bill that will simultaneously strengthen the skills of Maryland workers, provide a more prepared workforce for employers, and in turn better serve Maryland consumers.

Registered Apprenticeship is a proven model of job preparation that combines paid On-The-Job Learning with Related Instruction to progressively increase workers’ skill levels and wages. Registered Apprenticeship is business-driven and provides an effective way for employers to recruit, train, and retain highly skilled workers. It allows employers to develop and apply industry standards to training programs, thereby increasing productivity and the quality of the workforce. As an “earn and learn” strategy, Registered Apprenticeship offers job seekers immediate employment opportunities that provide sustainable wages and advancement along a career pathway. Graduates of Registered Apprenticeship programs receive nationally recognized, portable credentials, and their training may be applied towards further post-secondary education.

In Registered Apprenticeship, a HVACR apprentice must work 8,000 hours on the job AND attend 576 hours of schooling (Related Instruction) in order to graduate and receive their journeyworker license. These requirements ensure that graduates are highly skilled AND are educated in their occupation.

Individuals who are currently in the HVACR industry via non-Registered Apprenticeships are able to take their licensing exam with a low number of hours spent training on the job (1875 vs. 8000). By increasing the number of years needed to hold an apprentice license from 3 to 4 and the number of training hours needed from 1,875 to 6,000, the bill more closely aligns the licensing requirements with those of the Registered Apprenticeship system. Because SB 23 will make entering the HVACR field via non-Registered Apprenticeship models similar to entering via Registered Apprenticeship, DWDAL anticipates there will be an increase in the number of new Registered Apprentices, creating more opportunities for Maryland residents to receive skilled training and education.

Additionally, Apprentices who graduate from an approved Registered Apprenticeship program receive their journeyworker license without an exam. Those who do not go through a Registered Apprenticeship program have a significant rate of non-passing. Therefore, if more individuals take the Registered Apprenticeship approach to getting their journeyworker license, SB 23 may also increase the total number of HVACR journeyworkers throughout the State.

Brooks_SB23.pdf

Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks

Position: FAV

BENJAMIN BROOKS
Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 303
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3606 · 301-858-3606
800-492-7122 Ext. 3606
Benjamin.Brooks@senate.state.md.us

District Office
Windsor Mill Office
8419 Liberty Road, Suite B
Windsor Mill, Maryland 21244
410-496-4037

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB23
Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Services –
Journeyman License- Qualifications

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
January 26, 2023

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on SB23, Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Services – Journeyman License- Qualifications. The purpose of this bill is to increase the licensing requirements for securing a Heating, Ventilation, Air- Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVACR) journeymen license in Maryland. Specifically, the bill increases the amount of training required from 3-year apprenticeship program and 1,875 hours to 4-year apprenticeship program and 6,000 hours, respectfully.

There are two pathways to earn your HVACR Journeyman’s license in Maryland. If you successfully complete a registered apprenticeship program, you automatically earn your license without sitting for the exam. As established by the DOL and the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Program (MATP), an apprentice must work 8,000 hours and attend 576 hours of related instruction to graduate and receive a journeyman license. Otherwise, candidates must pass a written exam. The Maryland Department of Labor (DOL) data shows that the overall pass rate for HVACR license exams is 44%, indicating that many who are sitting for the test are not adequately prepared.

HVACR technology has advanced over the last decade with increased energy efficiency standards, building codes, and safety regulations. This bill more closely aligns the licensing requirements in statue with those of the registered apprenticeship system in this trade, as well as other trades in the State. Furthermore, increasing the additional hours of training, will ensure adequate safety and preparedness of the HVACR workforce.

For these reasons, I am requesting a favorable report.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin F. Brooks".

Benjamin Brooks

SB23_HACC & AACP Joint Testimony_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Charles Hayden

Position: FAV



Joint Testimony of the Heating & Air Conditioning Contractors of Maryland (HACC) and the Association of Air Conditioning Professionals (AACP)

**Before the Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
January 26th Hearing: Senate Bill 23 "Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Services - Journeyman License - Qualifications"**

Position: Favorable

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and honorable members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 23 (SB23). The Heating & Air Conditioning Contractors of Maryland (HACC) and the Association of Air Conditioning Professionals (AACP) strongly support this bill, and our organizations respectfully ask for a favorable report from the Committee to ensure safety and preparedness of workers in our industry.

HACC and AACP are the two trade associations for independent heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) professionals in Maryland. Together, HACC and AACP represent 217 local HVACR companies across the state of Maryland. Our members are a critical skilled workforce providing essential energy services to homes, businesses, and other facilities.

Modernizing Requirements for HVACR Journeyman License to Improve Safety

SB23 would update the requirements to earn an HVACR journeyman license in the State of Maryland, bringing them up to current standards for the trade and ensuring an adequately trained workforce. Specifically:

- **Increasing on-the-job training experience to 6,000 hours minimum** (up from the mere 1,875 hours currently required) would ensure that HVACR journeyman license candidates have sufficient hands-on training and field experience to provide HVACR services as a journeyman under the direction and control of a licensed contractor. Particularly with the advancement of HVAC technology and equipment, as well as increased energy efficiency standards and building codes, and more sophisticated health and safety protocols, there is industry consensus that less than 6,000 hours is simply not enough training to reach journeyman level.
- **Increasing length of time with apprentice license to 4 years**, up from 3 years currently, would ensure that apprentices are not missing out on critical 4th year advanced skills and knowledge that are foundational to a safe and well-equipped workforce. For example, in the 4th year of a registered apprenticeship program, HVACR Students are taught important advanced subjects including buildings codes, electrical codes,

advanced schematics operation and troubleshooting, heat load calculations, and boilers and hydronics, balancing and measuring air distribution systems. Maryland law already requires 4 years as an apprentice in other high-skilled trades, including Plumbing and Electrical.¹

Graduates of apprenticeship programs approved by the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council (MATC) can earn their HVACR journeyman license without having to take the examination. **These registered apprenticeship programs already encompass a 4-year curriculum of classroom training and 8,000 hours of on-the-job training per the standards set by MATC.** By updating the Journeyman License Requirements to better align with those requirements for registered apprenticeship programs, this bill helps to ensure candidates are prepared to provide HVACR services safely and effectively with the increased independence associated with the journeyman license.

Setting Clear Expectations for Journeyman License Candidates

This bill also helps to ensure that candidates have clear expectations of the minimum necessary time and experience in the field to earn their license, so that more candidates can be successful when they take the examination for licensure. The current requirements hurt candidates by allowing them to sit for the test before they have acquired sufficient experience, which could have the unintended consequence of causing individuals to give up on the industry before they earn their Journeyman License. The current overall pass rate for HVACR license test takers is just 44%.² Increasing the HVACR Journeyman License Requirements to sit for the test to better align with requirements of 4-year apprenticeship programs would ensure candidates are more prepared for the test, and therefore we would expect to see a higher pass rate.

Conclusion

HACC and AACP ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB23 to help ensure a safe and well-prepared Maryland HVACR workforce.

Contact

Sabine Rogers
Government Affairs Representative for HACC & AACP
sabine@anndyl.com
802-338-0268

¹ [§12-302](#) Plumbing License Requirements; [§6-304](#) Electrical License Requirements

² State Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air-conditioning, And Refrigeration Contractors Business Meeting Minutes, [August 10, 2022](#).

SB 23 - Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, an

Uploaded by: Donna Edwards

Position: FAV



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Balto. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President

Donna S. Edwards

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**SB 23 - Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Services
- Journeyman License - Qualifications
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
January 26, 2023**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB23. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

SB23 raises the required number of training hours before applying for a heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration (HVACR) journeyman's license from 1875 to 6000. It also requires an applicant to hold their apprentice license for four years instead of three.

Union apprenticeships in HVACR, like those offered by our affiliates, far exceed the new standards required by this bill. Current union HVACR apprenticeships participating in the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Program are required to meet 8,000 hours of training and 576 hours of additional instruction. Many programs offered by our affiliates require well above what Maryland requires. We believe that increasing minimum training standards for everyone will result in a better trained workforce.

For the quality of the heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration industry we seek a favorable report for SB23.

For the quality of the heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration industry we seek a favorable report for SB23.

SB 23 MCA Letter of Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Ellen Valentino

Position: FAV



MCA
MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS
ASSOCIATION
MARYLAND

Maryland Senate – Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

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Sponsor: Senator Benjamin T. Brooks, Sr.

**Senate Bill 23 – Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Services –
Journeyman License – Qualifications**

Position: Support

Established in 1927, the Mechanical Contractors Association (MCA-MD) is the premier regional trade association representing responsible, law-abiding job-providers in the plumbing, HVAC, pipefitting/steamfitting fields. Since our founding, MCA-MD has been fully committed to developing well-trained, well-credentialed tradesmen and tradeswomen. To that end, we strongly support SB 23.

MCA-MD contractor members make a substantial financial investment in and are fully committed to the region's leading apprenticeship program. In fact, we invest in and support a total of three such union-affiliated apprenticeship programs across the region - from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, as well as the Baltimore area. Our commitment to bringing training to all corners of the State is a foundational principle of our mission. Together with our labor partners at UA Local 486, we provide second-to-none career training opportunities and are committed to a life-changing apprenticeship program that represents the backbone of our industry.

Given our industry commitment to excellence, our journeyman/journeywoman model for training and experience has well exceeded the proposed requirements outlined in SB 23 for decades and will continue to do so. Legislation that lifts the industry to develop better and safer trained, higher performing employees is good for employees, employers, and the taxpayers. We believe that Senate Bill 23 makes good public policy. We respectfully urge the Committee to support the legislation.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Charles Daniel

Executive Vice President

Mechanical Contractors Association (MCA-MD)

Senate Bill 23 HVACR Lic..pdf

Uploaded by: Gerald Jackson

Position: FAV



PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS

UA LOCAL UNION 486

8100 Sandpiper Circle, Suite 200
Baltimore, Maryland 21236
Phone: 410-866-4380
Fax: 410-933-3515
www.UALocal486.com
Founded 1889

Maryland Senate- Education, Energy, and the Environment

Chair: Senator Brian Feldman

Vice Chair: Senator Cheryl Kagan

Sponsor:

Senate Bill 23 - Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, And Refrigeration Services – Journeyman License

Position: Support

Plumbers & Steamfitter's Local Union #486, along with our business partners MCA of MD, agrees that training is the foundation of an educated productive work force. Although Union apprenticeship requirements far exceeds what this bill proposes, (5 years-1000 hours classroom) and (5 years -9000 hours of on the job training), I feel that this bill is a great start towards increasing the requirements to becoming a licensed journeyman in the HVACR industry.

Plumbers & Steamfitter's Local Union 486 and the MCA of Maryland invest \$5 million dollars per year in the training of, what we believe is the most elite, well educated craftsmen in the DMV.

Legislation that lifts the industry standards to develop safer and better trained craftsman is good for the citizens who depend on highly skilled craftsman to service their residential and commercial needs. This legislation will also serve to enhance the work force for all HVACR Contractors. Our mantra is "Do It Right The First Time".

For these reasons I'm asking for a Favorable Opinion for Senate Bill 23.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald W. Jackson

Assistant Business Manager

Plumbers & Steamfitter's UA Local 486

Pasquale D. Petrovia
Business Manager

Gerald W. Jackson
Assistant Business Manager

Gary G. Glab
Financial Secretary/Treasurer

C. Ryan Ambrose
Business Agent

Harry M. Schleicher Jr.
Business Agent

Stephen M. Nitsch
Business Agent

Todd E. Eckley
Recruiter

BDCBT SB 0023 Testimony 01262023.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeffry Guido

Position: FAV



Maryland Senate - Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

Chair: Brian J. Feldman
Vice Chair: Cheryl C. Kagan

Senate Bill 0023 - Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Services - Journeyman License - Qualifications

Position: Support

The Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council supports SB 0023. The increase of apprenticeship hours under the direction of a Master HVACR Mechanic is imperative to ensure that an individual has acquired the skill and working knowledge of the codes and practices to professionally install and service HVACR systems for public and private safety and comfort. In comparison an apprentice plumber needs 7200 hours and an apprentice electrician needs 8000 hours under the direction of their respective Master Plumber and Master Electrician to sit for their journey person exams administered by the state of Maryland. Training and licensing provide a means to protect your work from unlawful and injurious competition. Senate Bill 0023 provides a means to that end.

We urge the Committee for a favorable report. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeffry Guido

(E) consultingbyjlg@gmail.com (O) 301-743-5334 (C) 240-687-5195

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UA Steamfitters 602 Testimony SB23 FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Roger Manno

Position: FAV

Journeyman Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



Local Union No. 602

8700 ASHWOOD DRIVE • 2ND FLOOR • CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD 20743

TELEPHONE: (301) 333-2356 • FAX: (301) 333-1730

AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

SB23 - Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Services - Journeyman License
- Qualifications

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Feldman and honorable members of the Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee:

On behalf of the UA Steamfitters Local 602, the more than 5000 Journeymen, Apprentices and Helpers we represent, and the roughly 200 signatory contractors under the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metro Washington with whom we work, I write today to thank Senator Brooks for sponsoring SB23, and to ask the committee for a favorable report.

This legislation makes sense for the same reasons that our union requires rigorous skills training: because it produces outstanding workers, prepared for the complex construction and service needs of the 21st Century.

On background, UA Steamfitters Local 602 members are the men and women who provide the installation, service and maintenance of the equipment and components necessary to operate:

- Heating and Air Conditioning systems in your homes, places of work, education, recreation, necessity and leisure.
- Electricity generating processes in Gas, Coal, Trash Burning and Nuclear Power Generation facilities.
- Low and Medium Temperature Refrigerators, Freezers and Coolers in Grocery Stores, Convenience Stores, Food Processing Plants and Restaurants.
- Medical Gas systems in Hospitals, Clinics and Doctor's Offices.
- Pharmaceutical and Microchip Fabrication systems in processing plants.
- Cooling systems that monitor and modulate the safe operating temperature of the internet servers and critical computer systems in Data Centers, Office Buildings, Server Farms, Broadcasting Equipment and Cellular Service Towers.

In order to prepare our Apprentices for these diverse workforce installations, UA Steamfitters 602 requires our Apprentices to complete 8500 hours of training, over a 5-year period.

This is far more rigorous than current law, which only requires Apprentices to complete 1875 hours of skills training over a period of 3 years, before qualifying to be a Journeyman. As drafted, SB23 increases current law standards (for Apprentices engaged in heating, ventilation,

CHRISTOPHER M. MADELLO
BUSINESS MANAGER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY TREASURER

SIDNEY O. BONILLA
ASSISTANT
BUSINESS MANAGER

SEAN T. STRASER
BUSINESS AGENT

GREGORY L. DAVIS
BUSINESS AGENT

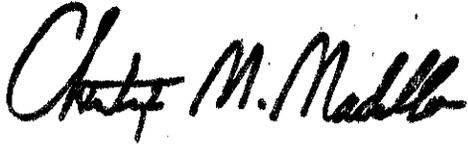
TIMOTHY L. BIGGS
BUSINESS AGENT

ROBERT T. GIFFORD
BUSINESS AGENT

air-conditioning, and refrigeration only) from 1875 hours to 6000 hours, and from 3 years to 4 years, under the direction and control of a licensed contractor.

While not as rigorous as UA Steamfitters 602 training standards, SB23 represents a significantly more rigorous training program than does current law and is an enormous step in the right direction. For those reasons, we respectfully ask for a favorable committee report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris M. Madello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Madello

Business Manager and Financial Secretary / Treasurer

UA Steamfitters Local 602

MBIA Letter of Opposition SB 23.pdf

Uploaded by: Lori Graf

Position: UNF

January 23, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building,
2 West Wing 11 Bladen St.,
Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: Oppose SB 23 - Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Services 3 – Journeyman License – Qualifications

Dear Chairman Feldman:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB 23 - Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Services 3 – Journeyman License – Qualifications**. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill would require having held an apprentice license for 4 rather than 3 years and having completed at least 6,000 rather than 1,875 hours of training under the direction and control of a licensed contractor. MBIA wholeheartedly opposes this measure. Our industry encourages students to join trade fields, and we believe that increasing the requirements would only discourage students who want to join these fields. We currently struggle to find labor and to get apprentice people more involved and this measure would make it even harder for us.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee