

MWA Support - SB 121 (002).pdf

Uploaded by: Brandon Butler

Position: FAV

MWA Members

Anne Arundel County

Anne Arundel Workforce
Development Corporation
Kirkland Murray, *Executive
Director*

Baltimore City

Mayor's Office of Employment
Development
Jason Perkins-Cohen, *Director*

Baltimore County

Baltimore County Department of
Economic and Workforce
Development
Leonard Howie, *Director*

Carroll County

Carroll County Business /
Employment Resource Center
Heather Lee Powell, *Manager*

Frederick County

Frederick County Workforce
Services
Michelle Day, *Director*

Howard County

Howard County Office of
Workforce Development
Francine Trout, *Director*

Lower Shore

Lower Shore Workforce Alliance
(Somerset, Wicomico, &
Worcester, Counties)
Leslie Porter-Cabell, *Workforce
Director*

Montgomery County

WorkSource Montgomery, Inc.
Anthony Featherstone,
Executive Director

Prince George's County

Prince George's County
Workforce Development Board
Walter Simmons, *Executive
Director*

Southern Maryland

Southern Maryland Job Source
(Calvert, Charles, & St. Mary's
Counties)
Ruthy Davis, *Director*

Susquehanna Region

Susquehanna Workforce
Network, Inc. (Cecil & Harford
Counties)
Kimberly Justus, *Executive
Director*

Upper Shore

Upper Shore Workforce
Investment Board (Caroline,
Dorchester, Kent, Queen
Anne's, & Talbot Counties)
Dan Schneckeburger,
Executive Director

Western Maryland

Western Maryland Consortium
(Allegany, Garrett &
Washington Counties)
Deborah Gilbert, *Executive
Director*

January 23, 2023

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members:

The Maryland Workforce Association, an association of the 13 public workforce system directors of Maryland's 13 Local Workforce Development Boards and Areas, would like to express its SUPPORT of Senate Bill 121: More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023. We also would like to thank Senator Jim Rosapepe for his steadfast support of Maryland's Public Workforce System and its 13 Local Workforce Development Boards.

The bill seeks to establish a pipeline of talent by providing Registered Apprenticeship and employment opportunities for high school students. The bill also seeks to create parity between Registered Apprenticeships and other post-secondary pathways, by requiring certain school systems to pay for Registered Apprenticeship entrance exams if the school system also provides the same benefit for other exams like advanced placement.

As you know, Registered Apprenticeships provide youth and adults with the ability to earn while they learn. While the workforce system has worked to grow the number of apprenticeships in Maryland, there is much more work to be done. We thank the sponsor for offering this thoughtful piece of legislation and respectfully request the Committee's support of this measure.

If you have any questions about the Association's support of this measure, please contact Brandon Butler, Maryland Workforce Association's Executive Director at brandon@pinnaclestrategiesconsulting.com.

Sincerely,



Kirkland Murray, President
Maryland Workforce Association

SB0121-EEE_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Brianna January

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 121

More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee

Date: January 24, 2023

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 121. This bill seeks to help level the playing field for Maryland students wishing to pursue vocational education and careers instead of post-secondary education.

SB 121 would require schools to pay the exam fees for trade skills and apprenticeship certification if they do so for college preparatory course exams (like AP and IB exams) and to help connect students with vocational apprenticeship and career opportunities, like they do for colleges and universities. This is in-line with county priorities and with the forthcoming requirements of The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (The Blueprint).

Maryland counties have historically supported alternative education and career paths but doing so has recently become even a greater priority for local governments in response to the shifting labor market and workforce demands. Counties, like other employers, continue to face a shortage of vocational trade staff to hire or contract for critical infrastructure and public works projects. This raises county costs and pushes back project completion on key projects like building new schools and repairing roads and bridges – and Marylanders suffer for it.

Furthermore, acknowledging the growing trend and need to pursue vocational trades, The Blueprint places a large emphasis on Career and Technical Education (CTE) and apprenticeship and skills training. Counties are enthusiastic to implement this aspect of The Blueprint. In fact, in 2022, several counties partnered with their local community college to develop educational and skill building programs for high school students and several counties made historic budgetary investments to expand CTE programs in schools.

Maryland's students deserve access to every opportunity for post-K-12 success and Maryland's public education priorities should reflect the modern needs of the labor market and workforce. SB 121 is a reasonable step to do so and for these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 121 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

SB0121_FAV_MTC_More Opportunities for Career-Focus

Uploaded by: Drew Vetter

Position: FAV



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Jim Rosapepe

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

DATE: January 24, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 121 – *More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is a collaborative community, actively engaged in building stronger life science and technology companies by supporting the efforts of our individual members who are saving and improving lives through innovation. We support our member companies who are driving innovation through advocacy, education, workforce development, cost savings programs, and connecting entrepreneurial minds. The valuable resources we provide to our members help them reach their full potential, making Maryland a global leader in the life sciences and technology industries. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 121.

Senate Bill 121 requires local school systems to assist high school students in preparing for admission to registered apprenticeship programs in a manner similar to how they assist students in preparing for admission to postsecondary institutions.

Our member companies span industries such as life sciences, biotechnology, information technology, software, telecommunications, and others. Like so many industries currently, each is dealing with workforce needs and a shortage of skilled workers. A postsecondary degree or advanced degree is not required for all jobs in the technology sector. In fact, there are many careers in the technology industry that value experience, certifications, and technical skills. This bill will go a long way to better equipping Maryland students interested in pursuing such tech jobs that do not require postsecondary education. A favorable report is requested.

SB 121 More Opportunities for Career-Focused Stude

Uploaded by: Erin Dorrien

Position: FAV



Maryland
Hospital Association

January 24, 2023

To: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Re: Letter of Support- Senate Bill 121- More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023

Dear Chair Feldman:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 121.

Maryland hospitals are facing the most critical staffing shortage in recent memory. A 2022 [GlobalData](#) report estimates a statewide shortage of 5,000 full-time registered nurses and 4,000 licensed practical nurses. Without intervention, shortages could double or even triple by 2035. MHA's [2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce report](#) outlines a roadmap to ensure Maryland has the health care workforce it needs now and into the future. One of the key components is to remove barriers to health care education through tuition assistance, stipends, loan repayment, and other incentives.

SB 121 elevates the pursuit of vocational training for students. This is important for the health care workforce. Many hospital jobs do not require a four-year degree. Registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and nursing assistants, who comprise 39% of the hospital workforce, require a maximum of a two-year degree except for a registered nurse, who can pursue a two-or four-year degree.¹ Other hospital jobs only require a certification such as a pharmacy technician.

Hospital data show nearly 1 in 5 or 18.9% of nursing assistant positions are currently vacant.¹ Over the past year, Maryland hospitals worked together to address the high demand for certified nursing assistants (CNAs) by creating an acute care CNA pathway, which includes a standardized exam.

SB 121 would acknowledge the acute care CNA pathway as a viable post-secondary education opportunity for students. This bill opens the door to opportunities for students who want to start their career immediately after high school.

For these reasons, we request a *favorable* report on SB 121.

For more information, please contact:
Erin Dorrien, Vice President, Policy
Edorrien@mhaonline.org

¹ MHA Workforce Survey – January 2023

MMHA - 2023 - SB 121 - Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Grason Wiggins

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 121

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Date: January 24, 2023

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.

Senate Bill 121 (“SB 121”) requires schools to inform students of apprenticeship opportunities in the same way schools inform students of postsecondary education opportunities. Further, SB 121 requires schools that pay for postsecondary education tests to allocate funding for apprenticeship exams.

MMHA has established the [Leasing Training Academy](#) and partnered with Employ Prince George’s to provide a first of its kind training program that specifically prepares and connects individuals to careers within Maryland’s housing industry. **At no cost to participants**, LTA trains unemployed or under-employed participants, connects the participants with employers to ensure a successful transition into the workforce, and provides LTA participants with a professional mentor who provides guidance and support after the individual has entered the workforce.

In addition to the LTA, MMHA’s [Service Training Academy](#) (STA) trains multiple cohorts annually and connects participants with maintenance technician positions at apartment communities that pay sustainable wages and offer full benefits. Like the LTA, the STA currently offers **free** training to participants, opportunities for continuing education to graduates, and connection to industry certifications.

With the passage of SB 121, the LTA and 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, which in many cases includes access to reduced-price or even free housing. **For this reason, MMHA respectfully requests a favorable report from the committee.**

SB121 JOTF Testimony FAV - More Opportunities for

Uploaded by: Ioana Stoica

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB121:
More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023

TO: Hon. Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Ioana Stoica, Policy Advocate

DATE: January 23, 2023

The Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF) is an independent, nonprofit organization that advocates for better jobs, skills training, and wages for low-income workers and job seekers in Maryland. We support Senate Bill 121 as a means of providing high-school students the opportunity to learn about and access apprenticeship programs and vocational training as alternative pathways to job security and employment.

According to the National Information Center for Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis, about 64% of Maryland high school graduates enroll in a college program the year after graduating high school, while approximately 24% of Marylanders overall have a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment. Apprenticeships provide employment opportunities throughout Maryland, and create a pathway to higher wage work for those without a college degree.

Employment in the skilled trades is growing: the ten year projected growth for electricians is 14%, for plumbers is 12%, and for carpenters is 6%. These professions provide good wages and oftentimes benefits that are able to support individuals and their families. In Maryland, on average, wages are \$31.97 per hour for master electricians, \$32.70 for plumbers, and \$24.17 for carpenters - well above the minimum wage.

Public high schools should serve all students, regardless of their interest or ability in pursuing higher education, by offering equitable opportunities to learn about these alternative career pathways, and by subsidizing the cost of assessments for vocational certifications. Furthermore, this bill would not only be good for students who wish to enter into gainful employment, but would benefit employers who are facing severe shortages of qualified applicants in a wide range of fields, from bus drivers to electricians to pharmacy technicians and more.

Maryland's secondary education institutions should offer quality instruction at all levels and provide equal access to students wishing to enter the trades through apprenticeship programs. We urge a favorable vote on **Senate Bill 121**.

For more information, contact:
Ioana Stoica / Policy Advocate / ioana@jotf.org / 240-643-0059

More Opportunities for Career Focused Students Act

Uploaded by: Jim Rosapepe

Position: FAV

Senator Jim Rosapepe

1/24/2023

More Opportunities for Career Focused Students Act of 2023 (SB0121)

Variety of initiatives to expand CTE and Youth (high school) and Registered Apprenticeships, including:

- Require school systems to provide opportunity for students to share their Naviance results with apprenticeship sponsors and employers registered with Maryland DoL or local workforce board
- Require schools to provide equal visibility and access to apprenticeship sponsors and employers as they do for colleges
- Require school systems which pay for fees to take AP, PSAT, or SAT tests to pay fees for skills credential and apprenticeship entrance exams

HFAM Testimony SB 121.pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph DeMattos

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
January 24, 2023
Senate Bill 121: More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023
Written Only Testimony

POSITION: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 121. HFAM represents skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction of the state.

“Today is not an indictment of the past; it’s a celebration of our future. And today is our opportunity to begin a future so bright, it is blinding. But only if we are intentional, inclusive, and disciplined in confronting challenges, making hard choices, and seizing the opportunity in front of us,” Maryland Governor Wes Moore, Inaugural Address, 2023.

Healthcare today faces the greatest shortage and the most tremendous opportunity in workforce development in a generation. To meet this opportunity and succeed, we must deploy new tools and create innovative public-private partnerships.

Senate Bill 121 requires certain county boards of education to consider the pursuit of certain certificates, certifications, or apprenticeships as the equivalent of pursuing postsecondary education; requires certain county boards to provide a method for certain individuals to not authorize the release of a student's personal information and certain results to certain apprenticeship sponsors and employers; and requires a county board to pay for a student to take an apprenticeship or industrial certification exam under certain circumstances.

This legislation would put certain apprenticeship programs on par with traditional college degree programs and requires school systems to assist high school students in preparing for admission to registered apprenticeship programs similar to how they assist students in preparing for admission to postsecondary institutions.

We support this legislation because workforce recruitment and retention challenges have long existed in healthcare, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. These challenges have only grown worse over the last several years and they will remain even as we navigate a post-pandemic world. This legislation is important to ensure that we continue to find solutions to staffing challenges and remove barriers to entry after the pandemic.

As we plan our long-term “new normal” in healthcare, we are placing considerable attention on how on-the-job training, apprenticeship programs, trade studies, and traditional post-secondary education can be overlapped to produce more licensed professionals across the care continuum.

Just as there are incremental steps of professional development and job classification in traditional trade apprenticeship approaches, some of us in healthcare are looking at developing similar types of career ladders for our sector.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 121.

Submitted by:

Joseph DeMattos, Jr.
President and CEO
(410) 290-5132

SB 121 More Opportunities for Career-Focused Stude

Uploaded by: Kevin O'Keeffe

Position: FAV



T 301.621.9545
800.470.3013
F 301.912.1665
www.iecchesapeake.com

8751 Freestate Drive
Suite 250
Laurel, MD 20723

January 24, 2023

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

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support Senate Bill 121-More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake supports Senate Bill 121 and requests a favorable report from the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. Senate Bill 121 will require local school systems to incentivize the pursuit of students pursuing apprenticeship programs in the skilled trades. This legislation will require school systems to encourage students to pursue the skilled trades in the same way that student are encouraged to attend college. Senate Bill 121 will assist apprenticeship programs and employers in recruiting new apprentices.

IEC Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Its headquarters are located in Laurel, Maryland. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship program for training electricians. In addition, IEC Chesapeake promotes green economic growth by providing education and working with contractor members, industry partners, government policy makers and inspectors to increase the use of renewable energy.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 301-621-9545, extension 114 or at gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at kevin@kokeeffelaw.com.



MBIA Letter of Support SB 121.pdf

Uploaded by: Lori Graf

Position: FAV

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: Support SB 121 - More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023

Dear Chairman Feldman:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB 121 - More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023**. MBIA **Supports** the Act in its current version.

This bill would require that county boards of education to devise a mechanism to create an equivalency between vocational and apprenticeship programs and post-secondary education. MBIA wholeheartedly supports this measure. While education is an important requirement for many positions, it is not solely achieved through expensive post-secondary education. Apprenticeship programs and vocational certificates offer specialized training with a significantly lower cost that prepares students for a variety of career paths. MBIA supports requiring that county boards give equal opportunities to students that want to participate in one of these programs as well as scholastic achievement and provides them with equivalent help to achieve their career goals.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable 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

SB121 More Opportunities for Career-Focused Studen

Uploaded by: Mara Babb

Position: FAV



SB121 More Opportunities for Career–Focused Students Act of 2023

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

EDUCATION, HEALTH, & ENVIRONMENT

SUPPORT

Our names are Mara Babb, Subhashi Pradhan, Noor Chaudhry, and Julien Halleman, and we are students of Anne Arundel County and executive team members of the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC). We are writing in support of SB121 More Opportunities for Career–Focused Students Act of 2023. If passed, the bill will require school systems to establish a College and Career Readiness software to encourage apprenticeships and employment opportunities related to students’ post-secondary career interests. It will also require county boards to waive apprenticeship entrance exams and industrial certification exams in counties where similar tests are waived.

CRASC strongly supports increased college and career-focused programs for students with varying interests and all socio-economic backgrounds. With higher education becoming less accessible due to high tuition rates and many students not desiring to pursue a traditional 2-4 year college education, this bill will allow students to pursue vocational trades and have access to jobs upon graduation. This bill would allow students who qualify for financial aid for AP exams, PSAT/NMSQT, or SATs, to also receive financial aid for apprenticeship entrance exams or industrial certification exams, allowing students of all economic backgrounds to have access to such opportunities. Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) has established College and Career Readiness software that has allowed for hundreds of students per year to leave their high school with the ability to head into the workforce with the necessary credentials and experience.

This bill would also inform students of apprenticeship and employment opportunities related to their interests. In AACPS students have the opportunity to apply for career programs at the CAT centers where they are able to hone in on their interests by obtaining a rigorous education alongside competitive apprenticeships. Some may say that the demand in these programs is too low to justify an increased development, however, according to the Governor’s Office for Children, since 2004 there has been a steady increase in the percentage of graduates who completed the requirements for both the University System of Maryland and the Career and Technology Education program. This shows that students have been becoming increasingly interested in pursuing careers after high school as more students are completing career-focused programs and entering trade schools every year.

The CRASC Legislative Department refers back to the following relevant clauses of the CRASC Platform:

- *CRASC Supports...* The expansion of post-secondary resources through the employment of college counselors and opportunities such as college preparation initiatives, scholarship opportunities, and SAT preparation and administration; (Plank 3, Clause Q)
- *CRASC Supports...* Expansion of academic opportunities for all students by diversifying the curriculum; (Plank 3, Clause B)

Accordingly, CRASC respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on SB121.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mara Babb, Secretary of Legislation, babmmara@gmail.com

Noor Chaudhry, Legislative Liaison, noorschaudhry@gmail.com

Julien Halleman, Legislative Liaison, julienh123@icloud.com

Subhashi Pradhan, Legislative Liaison, subhashi_pradhan@hotmail.com

SB121 - 1.24.23 -More Opportunities for Career-Foc

Uploaded by: Mark Thomas

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE**

SENATE BILL 121 – MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAREER-FOCUSED STUDENTS ACT OF 2023

Sponsor – Senator Rosapepe

January 24, 2023

**MARK A. THOMAS
PRESIDENT & CEO**

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Position: Support

Senate Bill 121 requires Maryland’s school districts to consider the pursuit of career certificates and apprenticeships as equivalent to pursuing postsecondary education. The bill provides students and families the option to authorize the release of a student’s personal information found on a college and career readiness platform with apprenticeship sponsors and employers registered with the Department of Labor or a local workforce development board.

Additionally, the bill requires that any school district that pays for academic testing such as Advanced Placement examinations, Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, or a Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) exams shall also pay for apprenticeship entrance exams and industry certification exams.

The Greater Baltimore Committee contends industry recognized credentials and apprenticeship opportunities provide a path for Maryland’s student to achieve family-sustaining jobs. Ensuring that students are encouraged to pursue these options in addition to post-secondary education benefits both students as well as the countless businesses in Maryland that need a pipeline of qualified workers. In addition, paying the cost of needed exams for apprenticeships or industry certifications will allow more students to pursue opportunities to gain skills and credentials for jobs in high-growth industry sectors.

This approach is consistent with one of the core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth outlined in the GBC report, *Gaining A Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*:

Workforce that is highly-educated and meets Maryland’s business needs. Maryland’s secondary and higher education institutions must offer access to quality instruction at all levels and cultivate a workforce that is well-suited to a modern economy and to the specific needs of Maryland’s business sectors.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 121.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 68-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

111 South Calvert Street • Suite 1700 • Baltimore, Maryland • 21202-6180

(410) 727-2820 • www.gbc.org

SB0121-DTMG-FAV-1-24-23.pdf

Uploaded by: Olivia Bartlett

Position: FAV



Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Testimony on: SB0121– More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: January 24, 2023

Bill Contact: Senator Jim Rosapepe

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with members in all districts in Montgomery County as well as several neighboring jurisdictions. DTMG supports legislation and activities that promote equity across all our diverse communities, including implementing the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future to improve public education and career opportunities for all students. Enactment of SB0121 will expand career opportunities for students and potentially reduce costs to students and their families.

The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future recognizes that many public school graduates will not choose to attend college and therefore emphasizes the need for increasing the number of trade schools and apprenticeship programs as well as establishment of programs that will result in issuance to high school students of industry-recognized occupational credentials. One goal of the Blueprint is that, by 2031, 45% of high school graduates will have completed a registered apprenticeship program or have an industry-recognized occupational credential. SB0121 includes common sense provisions aimed at accelerating compliance with this goal.

Under the proposed legislation, schools would be authorized to share, with apprenticeship program sponsors and employers registered with the Maryland Department of Labor, a student’s college and career readiness software program results that are used to help school systems and schools align student strengths and interests to post-secondary schools and careers. Importantly, before sharing could take place, consent will be required from the student or his or her parent or guardian. Furthermore, since many schools currently undertake far more effort to promote opportunities to attend college, SB0121 would direct schools to provide expanded visibility for job opportunities and apprenticeships. Finally, some school systems currently pay the costs for students to take SAT/ACT exams. Under SB0121, school systems that pay such costs would also be required to pay for students’ apprenticeship entrance exams or skill credential exams.

Enactment of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future was a significant achievement, but enhancing education for all students in Maryland is so important that the General Assembly must not rest on its laurels. Legislation such as SB0121 must be enacted to permit effective and timely implementation of the Blueprint. Therefore, DTMG strongly supports SB0121 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett
DoTheMostGood Maryland Team
oliviabartlett@verizon.net
240-751-5599

SB121_MAA_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel Clark

Position: FAV

CHAIRMAN:
Jeff Graf
VICE CHAIRMAN
David Slaughter

MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



TREASURER:
Paul Bramble
SECRETARY:
Curtis Hall
PRESIDENT:
G. Marshall Klinefelter

January 24, 2023

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 121 – FAVORABLE – More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) is comprised of 18 producer members representing more than 47 production facilities, 24 contractor members, 24 consulting engineer firms and 41 other associate members. MAA works proactively with regulatory agencies to represent the interests of the asphalt industry both in the writing and interpretation of state and federal regulations that may affect our members. We also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

Senate Bill 121 would expand the advisory role of local school systems by requiring them to assist high school students in researching and applying for employment and skills training opportunities across a wide variety of industries throughout the State in a manner similar to how they assist students in preparing for admission to postsecondary institutions.

MAA supports SB 121 because it will place comparable emphasis on alternative routes to postsecondary education after high school. Vocational training and apprenticeship programs provide an excellent option to students that result in high-paying, high quality stable careers. Not every student is best suited for traditional post-secondary school, and with these changes, they will be notified of, assisted with, and encouraged to pursue alternative options after they graduate, should that be a better fit. We are experiencing a nationwide labor shortage and this bill will enhance those efforts to increase the workforce by spreading awareness of the numerous options available to high school graduates. The transportation industry would benefit greatly from the influx of a younger, highly trained workforce, and so we support this initiative.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this issue and we respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marshall Klinefelter".

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association

SB121_MTBMA_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel Clark

Position: FAV



January 24, 2023

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 121 – FAVORABLE – More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

Senate Bill 121 would expand the advisory role of local school systems by requiring them to assist high school students in researching and applying for employment and skills training opportunities across a wide variety of industries throughout the State in a manner similar to how they assist students in preparing for admission to postsecondary institutions.

MTBMA supports SB 121 because it will place comparable emphasis on alternative routes to postsecondary education after high school. Vocational training and apprenticeship programs provide an excellent option to students that result in high-paying, high quality stable careers. Not every student is best suited for traditional post-secondary school, and with these changes, they will be notified of, assisted with, and encouraged to pursue alternative options after they graduate, should that be a better fit. We are experiencing a nationwide labor shortage and this bill will enhance those efforts to increase the workforce by spreading awareness of the numerous options available to high school graduates. The transportation industry would benefit greatly from the influx of a younger, highly trained workforce, and so we support this initiative.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this issue and we respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 121.

Thank you,



Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association

SB121 Written Testimony (2).pdf

Uploaded by: Deborah Brocato

Position: UNF



Opposition Statement SB121

More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023

Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant

Maryland Right to Life

We Strongly Oppose SB121

On behalf of our 200,000 followers across the state, we respectfully yet strongly object to SB121. The Abortion Care Access Act, passed during the 2022 session, removed the physician requirement for performing abortions and created Abortion Care Clinical Training Programs with a protected \$3.5 million training program fund. This use of taxpayer money for the purpose of abortion training goes against the will of the people. Without a stated prohibition, the apprenticeships and certification programs specified in SB121 could include training programs for abortion services and appropriations for those programs. We oppose the expanded use of taxpayer funds for abortion, abortion services and abortion training that this bill would allow.

Pregnancy is not a Disease

Abortion is not healthcare. It is violence and brutality that ends the lives of unborn children through suction, dismemberment or chemical poisoning. The fact that 85% of OB-GYNs in a representative national survey do not perform abortions on their patients is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women's healthcare. Women have better options for comprehensive health care. There are 14 federally qualifying health care centers for every Planned Parenthood in Maryland. Abortion has a disproportionate impact on Black Americans who have long been targeted by the abortion industry for eugenics purposes. As a result abortion is the leading cause of death of Black Americans, more than gun violence and all other causes combined.

No public funding for abortions

Taxpayers should not be forced to fund elective abortions, which make up the vast majority of abortions committed in Maryland. State funding for abortion on demand with taxpayer funds is in direct conflict with the will of the people. A 2023 Marist poll showed that 60% of Americans, both "pro-life" and "pro-choice" oppose the use of tax dollars to pay for a woman's abortion.

Love them both

This bill stands in conflict with the fact that 81% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children. Public funds instead should be prioritized to fund health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mother and children, including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care, parenting classes, foster care reform and affordable adoption programs.



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More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2023

Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant

Maryland Right to Life

Funding restrictions are constitutional

The Supreme Court of the United States, in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health* (2022), overturned *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and held that there is no right to abortion found in the Constitution of the United States. As early as 1980 the Supreme Court affirmed in *Harris v. McRae*, that *Roe* had created a limitation on government, not a government funding entitlement. The Court ruled that the government may distinguish between abortion and other procedures in funding decisions -- noting that “*no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life*”, and held that there is “*no limitation on the authority of a State to make a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion, and to implement that judgment by the allocation of public funds.*”

We ask for an unfavorable report given for **SB121**.