



EMPLOY PRINCE GEORGE'S
1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 400,
Largo, Maryland 20774
www.employpg.org
Walter L. Simmons, President

Senate Bill 585

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Date: March 1, 2023

Position: Favorable with Amendments

This testimony is offered on behalf of Employ Prince George's, the principal workforce development entity for Prince George's County that provides national 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.

Senate Bill 585 (SB 585) broadens membership of the Career and Technical Education Committee to include representatives of skilled trade organizations and career colleges. Additionally, SB 585 requires the CTE Committee to compile and provide a list of programs offered by those same entities to public schools for distribution to students.

Employ Prince George's supports SB 585, but **we respectfully offer an amendment to also include one representative of Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) on the CTE Committee.** 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.

Including Employ Prince George's, Maryland has thirteen (13) LWDB's that provide critical career and technical education services to tens of thousands of Marylanders annually. Through that work, LWDB's have gained valuable insight and first-hand experience that would greatly benefit the CTE Committee. **For this reason, Employ Prince George's respectfully requests adoption of the amendment included below and a favorable report on SB 585.**

Amendment:

On page 3, lines 6 and 18, and on page 5, line 5, insert “(iv) **local workforce development boards**” after “**career colleges,**” and on page 4, line 17, insert “, **local workforce development board programs,**” after “**skilled trade organization programs**”