

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