

BENJAMIN BROOKS
Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee



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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