



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**SB 444 - State Board of Electricians - Limited Energy Contractors and Limited Energy Integrators - Licensing
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 7, 2023**

OPPOSE

**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 opposition to SB 444. 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.

SB 444 circumvents the Maryland Electricians Act of 2021, undermining statewide workforce development programs and public safety. By establishing a limited energy integrator and contractor system, SB 444 creates an entirely new, largely untrained market of low-voltage electricians that are eligible to work on projects connecting to high voltage equipment. Many systems that are classified as low-voltage connect to high voltage systems like generators, motors, or life safety systems. Even low-voltage systems like those intended by the bill have the ability to seriously harm or kill workers and the public. Licenses represent the state of Maryland's seal of approval that an individual or business is qualified to do the work that they claim to do, but this bill has none of the training or experience requirements that the Maryland Electricians Act of 2021 put forward for licensed electricians. This bill is unnecessary because many low-voltage contractors can already do their work on communication cables without needing SB 444.

We urge the committee to issue an unfavorable report for SB 444.