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BILL NO.: SB 413

TITLE: Apprenticeship 2030 Commission

SPONSOR: Senator Rosapepe

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 23, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** SB 413 - Apprenticeship 2030 Commission. This legislation would establish the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission.

The growing need for skilled workers in high-demand occupations has been felt by organizations in the public and private sector alike. Many high school students see college as the sole path forward to rewarding employment. But for many industries, college is not the best path for ensuring access to a trained workforce. Workers within many skilled trades are often better served by technical courses through community colleges or on-the-job skills development offered by apprenticeships. It is incumbent upon leaders across the state to recognize the importance of different pathways for fostering a new generation of skilled labor.

Senate Bill 413 would establish a commission to evaluate and recommend policies to expand the current availability of apprenticeship programs throughout the State. Apprenticeship programs provide closely-monitored technical training to young people seeking career pathways in high-demand industries. As governments seek to strengthen pipelines to skilled public jobs and industries across the state seek to increase the pool of skilled workers to choose from, this legislation provides a timely solution.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 413. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.