



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

Senate Bill 413

Committee: Finance
Date: February 23, 2023
Position: Favorable

This testimony is offered on behalf of Employ Prince George's, the principal workforce development entity for Prince George's County that provides nationally 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 413 (SB 413) establishes the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission to examine apprenticeships and make recommendations to help Maryland:

1. Recruit new registered apprenticeship sponsors;
2. Ensure that 45% of high school graduates participate in apprenticeships by 2031;
3. Reach 80,000 apprentices by 2030; and
4. Create a thriving economy that connects every Marylander to gainful employment.

Apprenticeships have various program designs that allow job seekers to gain immediate employment, increase their wages, and learn new technical and professional skills that lead to more career opportunities. Employ Prince George's Apprenticeship Innovation Program (AIP), which gives job seekers the opportunity to participate in Registered Apprenticeships, Industry Recognized Apprenticeships, and Pre-Apprenticeships. **It is the only local workforce development program dedicated to increasing and expanding apprenticeships statewide.**

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, which includes a diverse portfolio of apprenticeship programs. 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.

Maryland will benefit from the expansion of participation in apprenticeship programs, which will provide more opportunities for Marylanders to be connected to sustainable careers. By establishing a commission to examine apprenticeships and make recommendations to expand Maryland's apprenticeship programs, SB 413 places Maryland on a path toward economic growth and success that will benefit every Marylander. **For the aforementioned reasons, Employ Prince George's respectfully requests a favorable report from the Committee on SB 413.**