



**Associated Builders  
and Contractors, Inc.**

**Maryland Joint  
Legislative Committee**

February 23, 2023

*The Voice of Merit Construction*

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TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE  
FROM: ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS  
RE: S.B. 413 – APPRENTICESHIP 2030 COMMISSION  
POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

On behalf of the Associated Builders and Contractors for Maryland, we support the intent of the S.B. 413, as it seeks to examine and make recommendations to expand access to apprenticeships to reduce skill shortages in high-demand occupations and provide affordable training for career pathways for young people to participate in apprenticeships.

We are also grateful for the broad mix of participants that will serve on the proposed commission. The membership will consist of representatives from the Department of Labor, Commerce, and the State Superintendent of Schools, the Governor's Workforce Development Board, the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council and the Chair of the CTE Committee.

In addition, four members designated by the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL–CIO, including individuals representing the building trades, health care workers, and public service unions. With that in mind, as the largest organization in Maryland to represent commercial builders, and the largest provider in the State of multi-craft training programs, we request a seat on this newly formed commission.

Each year we train several thousand individuals in everything from apprenticeship and craft training to safety certification training and management and supervisory education. We work in the schools and have school-to-career programs with Career Technology Education programs across the state.

Our members are leaders in the industry. They are the general contractors who manage the projects. They are the specialty contractors who perform the work and employ the skilled craft professionals who are building Maryland's hospitals, high-tech data centers; schools; multi-family housing projects; office buildings and more.

When asked the most pressing need facing our industry, to a contractor they will answer the demand for skilled labor. The construction industry is on the cusp of its most severe skilled-worker shortage in more than a generation. The merit shop construction community develops construction trade professionals through

innovative educational programming that provides the most highly-skilled workforce.

Again, as the largest construction employer and training organization in Maryland, we ask that the committee consider our request for a seat on the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission.

On behalf of the over 1,500 ABC members in Maryland, we look forward to the opportunity to work together to build a well-trained and sustainable workforce for an evolving and sustainable economy.

Marcus Jackson, Director,  
Government Affairs

