



SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
Senate Bill 413
Apprenticeship 2030 Commission
February 23, 2023
Favorable with Amendment

Chair Griffith, Vice-Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 413. The bill establishes the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission to expand access to apprenticeships in high-demand occupations.

For centuries, apprenticing in one form or another has been a vehicle for bringing new workers into skilled trades. The University System of Maryland (USM) would welcome the opportunity to work in tandem with a proposed new Commission, state agencies, and private-sector partners to make recommendations that expand Registered Apprenticeship to secure paid apprenticeships in high-demand, competitive wage occupations.

Skilled-trades workers such as HVAC technicians and electricians are among the hardest positions to fill not just for university campuses, but across all industry and building sectors, resulting in a technical gap in workforce expertise. With the looming retirement of many of these skilled-trades workers, the need for a new generation of trained professionals who are familiar with modern, energy-efficient technology is in demand. To address this demand, some Maryland institutions may seek to develop their own accredited skilled trades apprenticeship programs. These programs could provide a path for individuals to develop the knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience to qualify to work in the trade at the full performance level. USM participation in the Commission deliberations would add value and greater opportunities to share best practices.

In an effort to be part of that on-going conversation, the USM respectfully requests an amendment be adopted that would add the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, or the Chancellor's designee, to the membership of the Commission.

Thank you for allowing the USM to share these thoughts and recommendation regarding Senate Bill 413.



About the University System of Maryland

The University System of Maryland (USM)—one system made up of 12 institutions, three regional centers, and a central office—awards 8 out of every 10 bachelor’s degrees in the State of Maryland. The USM is governed by a Board of Regents, comprised of 21 members from diverse professional and personal backgrounds. The chancellor, Dr. Jay Perman, oversees and manages the operations of USM. However, each constituent institution is run by its own president who has authority over that university. Each of USM’s 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes Historically Black Colleges and Universities, comprehensive institutions, research universities, and the country’s largest public online institution.

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