

February 21, 2024

The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Chair, House Economic Matters Committee
231 House Office Building
Annapolis Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Information - House Bill 650 – Labor and Employment – Apprenticeship Standards – Ratio of Apprentices to Journeypersons

Dear Chair Wilson and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration on House Bill 650.

House Bill 650 requires a 3-1 ratio of apprentices to mentors for nontraditional trade occupations and each newly registered occupation. The bill allows for exceptions to occupations where the 3-1 ratio may pose risks to safety.

Currently, there is no mechanism in the legislation for adjusting the ratio for existing apprenticeship programs in occupations that are not nontraditional trade occupations. MDOT respectfully suggests that it is in the best interest of the State to allow agencies to petition the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council (MATC) for a 3 – 1 apprentice to mentor ratio for previously registered programs (that currently have a 1-1 ratio) where safety is not a risk. The 3-1 ratio would help reduce the possibility of strain on current systems and support equity among both traditional and non-traditional trades across the board.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information during its deliberations of House Bill 650.

Respectfully submitted,

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