



## Ocean City, Maryland Chamber of Commerce

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### TESTIMONY OFFERED ON BEHALF OF THE GREATER OCEAN CITY MARYLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

#### IN SUPPORT OF:

#### SB0511 – Labor and Employment – Apprenticeship Standards – Ratio of Apprentices to Journeypersons

#### Before:

#### Senate Finance Committee

Hearing: 2/22/24 at 1:00 PM

The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 700 regional businesses and job creators, **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 0511 – Labor and Employment - Apprenticeship Standards - Ratio of Apprentices to Journeypersons.**

The Maryland Department of Labor’s current standard of 1 apprentice to 1 journey worker ratio (1:1 ratio) is appropriate to ensure the safety of apprentices in the building trades and those working in unsafe and hazardous occupations. This 1:1 ratio is being held as the standard for administrative, IT, media, bioscience, healthcare, finance, and many other non-traditional occupations that don’t have safety issues as well. Making these employers, and apprenticeship sponsors, apply for waivers (that can take 4 – 8 months) to employ more than one apprenticeship per journey worker in occupations that are safe and growing is limiting the economic success of small businesses, and our local economies. This policy is also limiting these businesses from accessing millions of dollars in apprenticeship funds to develop their staff and labor forces.

We are requesting the Maryland Department of Labor adjust the ratio for non-traditional, and non-hazardous/building trades, occupations to 3 apprentices to 1 journeywork (3:1 ratio) to create a more appropriate and small business-friendly apprenticeship ratio in Maryland.

The Greater Ocean City Chamber respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE COMMITTEE REPORT for SB0511.**

**2/21/2024**

**SB0511**

Please feel free to contact the Chamber directly at 410-213-0144, or Dennis F. Rasmussen, dfr@rasmussengrp.net at 410-303-3658 should you have any questions.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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