

CORY V. McCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Health and Human Services

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 221
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3165 · 301-858-3165
800-492-7122 Ext. 3165
Cory.McCray@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill 91

**Bill Title: Workforce Development and Adult Learning – Leasing Training Program – Establishment
Finance Committee
Hearing Date: February 01, 2024**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to request your support for Senate Bill 91 (Workforce Development and Adult Learning – Leasing Training Program -- Establishment). The definition of middle-skill development is a process that involves education beyond high school but less than a bachelor's degree. Workforce development refers to job training services to enhance workers' skills and employment opportunities.¹ Research suggests workforce development works to close the skills gap – meaning the job skills employers seek and the skills applicants applying for the job possess.²

Senate Bill 91 provides training to individuals interested in residential property management through the Leasing Training Academy. Before pairing individuals with a job in the field, the program seeks to train students with the proper skills for success and advancement through Maryland's housing authority. LTA is the first program of its kind in the region and may be the first program of its kind in the country. The program experienced great success in Prince George's County, connecting 82% of graduates with employment.

The significance of **SB91** is it requires the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning to carry out the Leasing Training Program. This bill ensures employers and skilled workers are connected—currently, the program partners with 23 owners and management companies that create student employment opportunities. Under the direction of the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning, the program will increase its number of partners and job seekers (benefitting the underemployed and unemployed).

The critical points in **SB91** are:

¹ <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED592002.pdf>

² <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED592002.pdf>

- Award of \$250,000 annually to eligible designated partnerships.
- Require the Governor to include \$250,000 in the program's annual budget bill for FY 26, 27, and 28.
- Require a progress report by January 1st of each year.

This year, the program will expand to Baltimore County beginning in May, and it expects to train 48 students. In total, the program will teach 96 students this year, including 48 in Prince George's County.

In closing, **SB91** will help expand the pathway to employment and toward meaningful careers for individuals in Maryland that allow them to advance within companies that hire them from the program.

Respectfully,



Cory V. McCray
45th District