

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

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Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building Trades Council - AFL-CIO
Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council - AFL-CIO
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Written Testimony of

Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the Senate Finance Committee On

SB 511 Labor and Employment – Apprenticeship Standards – Ratio of Apprentices
to Journeypersons

Opposed

February 21, 2024

Madam Chair Beidle and Committee Members,

My name is Rico Albacarys and I am a member and employee of IBEW Local 24, writing to express my **opposition** to **SB 511**. Increasing the apprentice to journeyman ratio will compromise safety and training quality. One journeyman supervising three apprentices would strain guidance and oversight, risking accidents and errors.

The term "nontraditional" lacks specificity, potentially undermining apprenticeship integrity. A tailored approach considering each program's unique needs is essential, rather than a one-size-fits-all policy. The Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council (MATC) already allows ratio adjustments based on program needs, ensuring flexibility without compromising safety or quality. Implementing a blanket change, as proposed, would disregard MATC's careful considerations, risking apprentice welfare and Maryland's interests.

For these reasons I urge you to give **SB 511** an **unfavorable** report and instead support upholding apprenticeship standards, safety, and quality training. Maryland's skilled workforce depends on it.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys
Assistant Business Agent IBEW Local 24