



**District Council No. 51**  
**4700 Boston Way**  
**Lanham, MD 20706**  
**(301) 918-0182**  
**(301) 918-3177 Fax**

## ONE VOICE

Representing:  
 Protective and Decorative  
 Coatings Applicators  
 Painters  
 Decorators  
 Wall Coverers  
 Drywall Finishers  
 Glaziers  
 Architectural Metal Workers  
 Glass Workers  
 Civil Service Workers  
 Shipyard Workers  
 Maintenance Workers  
 Metal Polishers  
 Metalizers  
 Bridge Painters  
 Riggers  
 Tank Painters  
 Marine Painters  
 Containment Workers  
 Lead Abatement Workers  
 Sand Blasters  
 Water Blasters  
 Sign Painters  
 Paint Makers

## ONE AGENDA

Affiliated Local Unions  
 Local Union 1  
 Local Union 368  
 Local Union 474  
 Local Union 890  
 Local Union 963  
 Local Union 1100  
 Local Union 1846  
 Local Union 1937

Over 100 Years Serving  
 Maryland  
 Virginia  
 Washington, DC



# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES, AFL-CIO DISTRICT COUNCIL NO. 51

February 21, 2024

House of Delegates Health and Government Operations Committee  
 Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk Chair  
 Bonnie Cullison Vice Chair  
 Room 241 House Office Building  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Subject: Support HB 1276- Public Works Contracts – Apprenticeship Requirements  
 (Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act)

Dear Honorable Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee:

The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 51 covering the Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia jurisdictions. We represent over 1,500 members in the finishing trades of the construction industry.

We write to you today to express our strong support for the Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act HB 1276. Our Finishing Trades Institute operates Registered Apprenticeship Programs in the State of Maryland. We firmly believe that investing in the development of our workforce is indispensable for the state's prosperity and sustained growth.

As a state, our investments wield the power to shape a more just and inclusive labor market, therefore we should require that apprenticeship programs be utilized on public works projects. Every investment, from public schools to public health, plays a role in supporting a healthy labor market. A critical investment in this regard is our workforce development system, specifically designed to strengthen our labor market. Strategic decisions to utilize apprenticeship in both the amount and contract management of these investments can contribute to a more equitable economy.

We want to emphasize the noteworthy commitment of Maryland Registered Apprenticeship Programs, collectively investing over \$10 million private dollars annually to train Maryland workers in the building and construction trades. This substantial investment underscores our dedication to upholding the highest standards of education within the construction industry.

The Registered Apprenticeship Programs stand as the premier apprenticeship and training initiative for the Maryland building and construction industries. They can be pivotal in ensuring that public works projects serve as catalysts for training the next generation of industrial construction workers. This strategic approach guarantees quality outcomes, fostering long-lasting benefits and, ultimately, resulting in cost savings for the State of Maryland.

The effective and economical construction of public works projects hinges on the availability of a well-trained workforce. It is crucial to recognize that funds spent on public projects without incorporating apprenticeship utilization may not be allocated optimally. The construction industry in Maryland is in need of a robust supply of trained workers to meet the demands outlined in state plans and federal infrastructure legislation. Our contractors and members invest in training our current and future generations of highly skilled workers from every walk of life.

By nurturing the growth of workers in the dynamic construction and safety industry, Registered Apprenticeship programs significantly contribute to individuals' well-being by offering dignified wages and benefits that ensure financial security. The repercussions of neglecting this preparation extend to threats to personal safety, an increase in total ownership cost, and diminished readiness and system performance.

Requiring certain projects to use registered apprentices adds structure for both employers and employees who enter into the trades. Under current law, there are guidelines and standards that must be met for skills development, guidelines that protect workers who participate in apprenticeship programs, and labor standards to safeguard the welfare of participating apprentices. For example, if an apprentice is doing everything required of her to be promoted from 1st year to 2nd year, 2nd year to 3rd year, and so on, then the apprenticeship program must promote the apprentice. Each promotion allows the apprentice to command a better wage. Without this protection, apprenticeship programs have an incentive to hinder the progress of apprentices- to benefit from cheaper labor. This structured learning environment, fostered at training centers across the State of Maryland, facilitates the transfer of knowledge from seasoned craftsmen and craftswomen to the next generation of workers.

In conclusion we urge you to vote in support of HB 1276- The Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act. This legislation not only aligns with the goals of workforce development but also ensures the prosperity and resilience of our state in the face of future challenges.

Thank you for your unwavering attention to this matter, and I appreciate your continued efforts to enhance the well-being of Maryland's workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Courtney".

IUPAT DC 51  
Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer