



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:

SB0325 – Income Tax - Credit for Employers of Eligible Apprentices - Alterations

Before:

Budget and Taxation Committee

Hearing: 1/22/25 at 10:30 AM

The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 700 regional businesses and job creators, **SUPPORTS Senate Bill SB03255 – Income Tax - Credit for Employers of Eligible Apprentices - Alterations**. This legislation would extend the sunset of the Registered Apprenticeship Tax Credit until June 30, 2031, and would repeal the current 50% prevailing wage requirement to earn the State Apprenticeship Tax Credit (SATC).

The intention with apprenticeships is to bridge the gap between the known shortage of skilled and trained employees in high demand occupations and affordable training for career pathways for young people. The Apprenticeship Start-Up Act of 2020 required apprentices to be paid at least 50% of the prevailing wage rate to qualify for the tax credit, which has resulted in a 10x decline in registered apprenticeships supported by the tax credit according to the Maryland Department of Labor.

The Greater Ocean City Chamber respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE REPORT for SB0325**. Please feel free to contact the Chamber directly at 410-213-0144 should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Amy Thompson
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