



Economic Matter Committee

To: Delegate CT Wilson, Char; Delegate Brian Crosby, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee
From: Jason Ascher, Political Director – Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

SUPPORT HB 554 – Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2025

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our five United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Locals, which represent over 10,000 Plumbers, Steamfitters, Welders, HVAC Techs, and Sprinkler Fitters across Maryland, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 554**.

Unemployment insurance is essential for workers who are temporarily unemployed. It ensures that if someone is laid off or fired from a job, they receive a small amount of money to help ensure they do not lose their roof over their heads and can put food on the table while they look for their next job. As someone who has relied on unemployment insurance in the past (though not from Maryland), I know it helped me pay essential bills while searching for a job, but it certainly did not support a lavish lifestyle.

Changes to the Unemployment system, such as updating how the weekly benefit amount and employer contributions to the trust fund are calculated, would go a long way toward improving the system and helping unemployed workers through a difficult time.

For the above reasons, we ask that you give **HB 554 a favorable Report**.

Sincerely

Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

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Plumbers and Gasfitter Local 5 – Camp Springs, MD
Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 10 – Richmond, VA/Roanoke, VA
Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 110 – Norfolk, VA
Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669 – Columbia, MD

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486 – Baltimore, MD
Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 489 – Cumberland, MD
Steamfitters Local 602 – Capitol Heights, MD