

March 5, 2025

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee  
Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: **Letter of Information HB688- Public Works Contracts - Apprenticeship Requirements (Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act)**

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents approximately 200 electrical contractors who employ approximately 15,000 workers in the mid-Atlantic region. In addition, IEC Chesapeake has nearly 1,000 electrical apprentices. IEC Chesapeake would like to provide the Committee with informational comments on HB1017.

IEC Chesapeake is a strong supporter of increasing apprenticeship opportunities in Maryland. IEC Chesapeake currently has approximately 1,000 electrical apprentices in the electrical industry. IEC Chesapeake understands it is the intent of SB688 to increase apprenticeship opportunities in Maryland. **IEC Chesapeake offers the following comments for the Committee's consideration.**

- *On Page 8, Lines 7-9, we believe that the applicable percentage of 20% beginning January 1, 2026 may be unrealistic.*
- *On Page 10, Lines 23-26, we believe the requirement of at least 90 calendar days before the date the contractor or subcontract expects to use apprentice labor may be too short.*
- *On Page 10, Lines 28-31, we believe that it is unnecessarily burdensome for a contractor or subcontractor to be required to submit a monthly report to the Department of Labor since the information is already provided through a certified payroll report to the Department of Labor.*

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 301-646-0197 or at [gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com](mailto:gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com) or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at [kevin@kokeeffelaw.com](mailto:kevin@kokeeffelaw.com).

#### **About Us**

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Our headquarters are located in Laurel, Maryland. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship program for training electricians. In addition, IEC Chesapeake promotes green economic growth by providing education and working with contractor members, industry partners, government policy makers and inspectors to increase the use of renewable energy.