



Associated Builders
and Contractors, Inc.

**Maryland Joint
Legislative Committee**

The Voice of Merit Construction

Mike Henderson

*President
Greater Baltimore Chapter
mhenderson@abcbaltimore.org*

Chris Garvey

*President & CEO
Chesapeake Shores Chapter
cgarvey@abc-chesapeake.org*

Dan Bond CAE

*President & CEO
Metro Washington Chapter
dbond@abcmetrowashington.org*

Tricia Baldwin

*Chairman
Joint Legislative Committee
tbaldwin@reliablecontracting.com*

Marcus Jackson

*Director of Government Affairs
Metro Washington Chapter
mjackson@abcmetrowashington.org*

Additional representation by:
Harris Jones & Malone, LLC

6901 Muirkirk Meadows Drive
Suite F
Beltsville, MD 20705
(T) (301) 595-9711
(F) (301) 595-9718

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TO: HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
FROM: ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS
RE: H.B. 957 – STATE PROCUREMENT – WORKER RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS
POSITION: SUPPORT

The Associated Builders and Contractors of Maryland support H.B. 957 which is before you today for consideration. This bill proposes crucial amendments to the State Finance and Procurement Article regarding worker residency requirements in state-funded projects. We believe this legislation will significantly benefit Maryland workers and strengthen our local economy.

H.B.957 addresses a critical need to prioritize Maryland residents in state-funded construction projects. By requiring contractors to ensure a specific percentage of workers and work hours are performed by state residents, this bill will boost local employment, support apprenticeship programs, enhance economic development, and strengthen existing apprenticeship funding.

This legislation directly promotes job opportunities for Maryland residents, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are reinvested into our communities.

By mandating the percentage of apprenticeship hours performed by Maryland residents, the bill fosters the development of skilled trades within our state, creating a pipeline of qualified workers for future projects.

Prioritizing local workers stimulates local economies, increasing spending and tax revenue within Maryland.

The fines incurred by those who do not comply with this bill will be placed into the State Apprenticeship Training fund, or into registered apprenticeship programs directly.

The tiered approach outlined in H.B. 957, distinguishing between covered small and large projects, demonstrates a thoughtful consideration of project scale and complexity. The specific percentage requirements for journey workers, skilled workers, common laborers, and apprentices are well-structured to ensure a balanced and effective implementation.

Furthermore, the provisions empowering the Department of Labor to enforce these requirements and the option for contractors to contribute to apprenticeship programs as an alternative demonstrate a flexible and practical approach to achieving the bill's objectives.

This legislation represents a vital step towards ensuring that Maryland residents benefit directly from state-funded projects, fostering economic growth, and building a stronger workforce.

On behalf of the over 1,500 ABC members in Maryland, we respectfully request a favorable report on H.B. 957.

Marcus Jackson, Director of
Government Affairs

