



Sam Williamson  
Public Justice Center  
201 North Charles Street, Suite 1200  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201  
410-625-9409, ext. 234  
williamsons@publicjustice.org

---

## HB850: Procurement – Public Work Contracts – Data Dashboard (Maryland Public Works and Apprenticeship Transparency Act)

Hearing before the House Health and Government Operations Committee, March 4, 2025

### Position: FAVORABLE

The Public Justice Center (PJC) is a not-for-profit civil rights and anti-poverty legal services organization which seeks to advance social justice, economic and racial equity, and fundamental human rights in Maryland. Our Workplace Justice Project supports workers' rights to fair compensation and dignity in the workplace. **The PJC supports HB850, which would establish a public data dashboard with certain information relating to contractors, subcontractors, employees, and apprentices working under public work contracts.**

- **HB850 would provide valuable information about how public funds are being used.** This bill would require each contractor and subcontractor on a public work contract to provide the Department of Labor with information regarding the prevailing wage rates, number of employees, regular and overtime wages, fringe benefits, and job classification of each employee employed by the contractor or subcontractor. The bill would also require each contractor and subcontractor on a public work contract to report information regarding apprenticeships, including demographic data. HB850 would, in turn, require the Department of Labor to develop a data dashboard on its website featuring the reported information.
- **HB850 promotes transparency, accountability, and compliance with federal and state labor laws.** Too often, wage theft goes undetected simply because workers do not know what they are entitled to be paid. By requiring the public reporting of key data, HB850 better enables workers, the public, and the Department of Labor and other enforcement agencies to ensure that public works projects comply with federal and state labor laws, including prevailing wage, overtime, and job classification requirements.
- **HB850 supports workforce development and diversity.** By requiring reporting and publication of data regarding the number, trade, and demographic data of each apprentice working for each contractor or subcontractor on a public work project, this bill would help identify where barriers to entry may exist and whether certain groups are underrepresented in apprenticeship programs. This data can guide efforts to ensure that underrepresented groups have equitable access to apprenticeship opportunities in public work contracts.

For the foregoing reasons, the PJC **SUPPORTS HB850** and urges a **FAVORABLE** report. If you have any questions, please call Sam Williamson at 410-625-9409 ext. 234.