

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON HB 772

TO: Members of the House Ways & Means Committee
FROM: Maryland Department of Labor
DATE: February 25, 2025
BILL: Education - Career Counseling Program for Middle and High School Students - Alterations

MDL POSITION: INFORMATIONAL

HB 772 proposes to extend the amount of time county boards of education must provide funding to Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) to support the Career Counseling Program for Middle and High School Students from only Fiscal Year 2025 and 2026 to Fiscal Year 2025 and beyond. The purpose of the Career Counseling Program is to provide each middle school and high school student within the county with individualized career counseling services.

MD Labor's Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL) oversees Maryland's administration of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and works in partnership with LWDBs to provide comprehensive workforce development programming for Marylanders. Through Title I of WIOA, MD Labor passes through funding to the 13 LWDBs to administer the Adult, Youth, and Dislocated Worker programs within their jurisdiction.

LWDBs are a critical part of Maryland's workforce system, supporting the Department's mission of connecting qualified jobseekers with pathways to family-sustaining employment. As key players in their communities, LWDBs are uniquely positioned to identify skill shortages and cultivate relationships with workers, employers, and educational institutions. By integrating workforce development, education, and economic development, each LWDB develops and implements effective workforce strategies tailored to their area and constituency. They are strong partners to MD Labor.

The Department respectfully requests the Committee consider this information as they evaluate HB 772.

For questions, please contact Caroline Bauk, at Caroline.Bauk@maryland.gov.