
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 864

TO: Budget and Taxation Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor)
DATE: April 2, 2026
BILL: Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act

MD LABOR POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

HB864 would create an “applicable percentage” of work hours for covered procurements that must be completed by Registered Apprentices. The bill would also establish the definition of a “qualified apprenticeship-connected program” to only include programs that referred to Registered Apprenticeships with a completion rate of 25%.

The Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL) within MD Labor, operating as Maryland’s State Apprenticeship Agency, oversees Registered Apprenticeship within the State. MD Labor has been working diligently with the bill sponsor to ensure that Maryland can effectively utilize procurement to strengthen Registered Apprenticeship in our State. The Department appreciates the sponsor’s continued partnership and leadership on this issue.

MD Labor is in support of HB864 with amendments, outlined below.

Specifically, MD Labor requests that the following amendments be added to HB864 to:

1. Define a “journeyworker” as someone who has either completed a Registered Apprenticeship in a craft or someone who has performed the skilled labor for the length of the Registered Apprenticeship, which will allow programs flexibility in assigning journeyworkers to apprentices;
2. Expand the definition of “qualified apprenticeship program” to include apprenticeship training programs and other workforce development programs, in addition to pre-apprenticeship programs;
3. Ensure that funds from the State Apprenticeship and Training Fund can be used for apprenticeship training programs, in addition to pre-apprenticeship programs, as is current law and practice; and
4. Apply provisions of the bill to “qualified apprenticeship programs,” as defined in HB864.

MD Labor appreciates this legislation’s intent to improve the strength of Registered Apprenticeship programs and respectfully asks the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB864 **with** the referenced amendments.

For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti at Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov.