



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

CHRISTOPHER M. CASH: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President  
WILLIAM T. NG: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • MARK F. PONTELLO: Treasurer



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of SB 673 STATE PROCUREMENT-APPRENTICESHIP ACCOUNTABILITY February 25, 2026

**TO:** Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

**FROM:** Tom Clark, Political Director, Intl' Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the Committee, I ask that you join me **in full support of SB 673**, an Apprenticeship Accountability and Completion program. This bill just asks for minimal standards of completion of all apprenticeship programs.

Over the past 4 years, Annapolis has seen numerous Apprenticeship bills being filed in the legislature. The reasons are many: the extreme costs of higher education, the need of skilled tradesmen, the remarkable results of on-the-job training coupled with classroom work, and the fact that Governor Moore is a huge proponent of Apprenticeships. Because of the popularity of these programs, we often see institutions and companies trying to cheat the program and therefore cheat the young Maryland workers, looking for a trade and skill. A lot of bills before you encourage companies to use the apprenticeship model, therefore procuring state contracts. Having said that, we now notice companies and institutions setting up "fake" or unqualified instructional programs. Therefore, skirting their commitment to the state and those who seek the professional training they need to succeed. Taxpayers should **not** subsidize apprenticeship programs that fail to graduate apprentices.

SB 673 only asks a bare minimum of 25% graduation rate. Once again, that is bare minimum. If you are not graduating at least 25% you are running a sham program and depriving young people of a career and the taxpayers of their hard-earned money. Most schools and institutions are honest and run qualified programs. For example, IBEW 26 runs one of the most premiere Apprenticeship programs in the country. It is academically tough, and the on-the-job training is rigorous, yet we graduate over 70% of the participants. These graduates are now suited for a stable career, with no college debt, full healthcare for life, an annuity and a defined pension, at no cost to the state.

I ask you to consider these minimal standards and **support SB 673**. Thank you





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