



February 23, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Testimony of Ray Baker, Maryland Director, Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council on
SB 673: State Procurement- Apprenticeship Program Accountability and Completion
Position: FAVORABLE**

Thank you, Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, for the opportunity to offer testimony on SB673. I am Ray Baker, Maryland Director of the Baltimore-DC Building Trades (BDCBT). The BDCBT's 28 affiliates represent more than 30,000 union construction workers across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The BDCBT supports SB673 which supports investments in the utilization of the registered apprenticeships. These "earn while you learn" programs do wonders in training the next wave of Maryland's workforce. Apprenticeship programs are the foundation of the skilled construction workforce and the relationship between union signatory contractors and building trades unions produce what we believe to be the best apprenticeship programs in the state. Regardless of our confidence, we support legislation that takes seriously the responsibility of being stewards of state resources. These resources are best served by apprenticeship programs that are training the next generations of Maryland's skilled workforce.

We are confident that those legitimate, good faith programs can and do exceed the proposed 25% and thus should not have any concerns with reaching this very manageable standards. We also believe that responsible contractors who are using apprentice labor to secure a state procurement contract should also meet the responsibility of training workers for tomorrow, not just a particular project today. This legislation makes sure everyone is equally committed and equally invested in using state resources responsibly for the benefit of Maryland's future workforce.

The combined benefits of a well-trained workforce and strong safeguards to state resources demonstrates why the BDCBT urges a favorable report on SB673.

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