

Tab 1

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Maryland State Senate
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: SB673 - State Procurement - Apprenticeship Completion and Accountability

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of SB673, legislation that establishes a minimum 25% completion rate requirement for apprenticeship programs utilized in state procurement, creating a performance threshold for certain programs.

Current Maryland law requires contractors on state-funded construction projects to participate in registered apprenticeship programs or contribute to the State Apprenticeship Training Fund. However, there is no requirement that these programs demonstrate effective completion outcomes. Some registered programs report completion rates in the single digits, meaning that public procurement dollars may be supporting training structures that do not reliably produce credentialed journey-level workers.

The bill is expected to increase the number of credentialed journey-level workers in Maryland's construction sector. This is likely to improve worker economic mobility as it is a pathway to family-sustaining wages.

The absence of a completion rate requirement means that procurement policy is not informed by program performance data. The Maryland Department of Labor collects completion data, but there is currently no mechanism to integrate that data into procurement eligibility standards. Apprenticeship has been recognized as a tool for economic mobility, particularly for individuals from underrepresented communities, women entering non-traditional trades, reentry citizens, and those pursuing non-college career pathways. Registered apprenticeship produces net social benefits averaging approximately \$58,888 in the medium term and \$124,057 over a participant's career. Maryland's construction sector continues to face skilled labor shortages. Demand for credentialed trades workers exceeds supply. Effective apprenticeship completion is a primary mechanism for closing this gap.

Senate Bill 673 / House Bill 1165 addresses the identified gaps by establishing a minimum 25% completion rate requirement for apprenticeship programs utilized in state procurement.

This bill redefines 'registered apprenticeship program' to require a 25% completion rate, as determined by the Maryland Department of Labor. This leverages existing data collection infrastructure and ensures consistency in measurement.

This bill does not eliminate the State Apprenticeship Training Fund option, mandate union affiliation, restrict contractor choice, impose new data collection burdens, or apply to private sector contracts. Contractors retain full flexibility to contribute to the Fund or select from any program meeting the 25% threshold using data the Department already collects.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB673.

With Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alonzo T. Washington', written in a cursive style.

Alonzo T. Washington
Maryland State Senate
District 22