

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

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Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council - AFL-CIO
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Written Testimony of
Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24
Before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee On
SB 673 State Procurement - Apprenticeship Program Accountability and Completion

Favorable

February 23, 2026

Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee Members,

My name is Rico Albacarys, and I am a member and employee of IBEW Local 24. As a licensed electrician and apprenticeship graduate, I am writing to express my support for SB 673. Local 24 represents more than 3,000 skilled electrical workers and operates a State registered apprenticeship program in partnership with our signatory contractors. We invest significant resources in training apprentices and guiding them to graduation and a journeyman license. We know that apprenticeship works best when it is paired with structured on the job training hours and leads to a lasting career.

Senate Bill 673 establishes a modest 25 percent completion rate requirement for programs used in covered State procurement. Responsible programs already meet this standard. The bill helps ensure that public dollars support apprenticeship programs focused on training and graduation, not for profit models that rely on enrollment numbers and tuition revenue while failing to deliver meaningful completion rates or lasting job opportunities.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 673.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys
Assistant Business Agent
IBEW Local 24