

March 4, 2026

To: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: **Oppose Senate Bill (HB) 943 – State Procurement - Competitive Sealed Bids and Proposals - In-State Evaluation Preference (Buy Maryland, Buy Local Act)**

IEC Chesapeake membership includes 150 contractors and 70 business partners. IEC Chesapeake members represent approximately 9,000 employees. In addition, it has approximately 1300 electrical apprentices.

Although IEC Chesapeake respects the intent of the sponsor to create work opportunities for Maryland-based contractors and employees, IEC Chesapeake respectfully opposes SB943. Given Maryland's close proximity to four other states and the District of Columbia, local hiring preferences have proven to be impractical. The state of Maryland should not be creating more obstacles to hiring willing and available skilled workers. Given the ease of moving between our neighboring jurisdictions, contractors often perform projects in more than one jurisdiction. It is also common for Maryland residents to work on construction projects in neighboring states and the District of Columbia. Providing up to a 30 point advantage for the State and local impact of a bid is unworkable.

For the above reasons, IEC Chesapeake is requesting an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 301-646-0197 or at gshmelzer@iecchesapeake.com or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at kevin@kokeeffelaw.com.

About Us

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Our headquarters are located in Laurel, Maryland. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship program for training electricians. In addition, IEC Chesapeake promotes green economic growth by providing education and working with contractor members, industry partners, government policy makers and inspectors to increase the use of renewable energy.