

Journeyman Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



Local Union No. 602

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AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

TESTIMONY OF SIDNEY BONILLA,
BUSINESS MANAGER STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 602
IN SUPPORT SENATE BILL 673 / HOUSE BILL 1165 –
STATE PROCUREMENT – APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLETION
BEFORE THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
AND THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Dear Chair Guzzone, Chair Wells, and Honorable Members of the Committees:

On behalf of Steamfitters Local 602, I submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 673 / House Bill 1165.

Steamfitters Local 602 represents skilled workers who build and maintain the complex mechanical systems that serve public buildings, hospitals, and infrastructure projects throughout Maryland. Our apprenticeship programs are designed to produce safe, productive journey-level workers who are ready for demanding jobsite conditions.

This legislation appropriately builds on existing procurement law by adding a performance-based standard for apprenticeship programs. Requiring a minimum completion rate ensures that programs relied upon for State projects are delivering results, not merely existing on paper.

From our perspective, apprenticeship completion is central to workforce stability. Contractors depend on a reliable pipeline of trained workers, and apprentices deserve programs that lead to long-term careers.

Senate Bill 673 / House Bill 1165 reinforces accountability without disrupting established training systems or excluding contractors who choose to contribute through existing statutory options.

For these reasons, Steamfitters Local 602 respectfully requests a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Sidney Bonilla

Business Manager

Steamfitters Local 602

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