



Wes Moore, Governor | Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor | Atif Chaudhry, Secretary

HB 1165 - State Procurement - Apprenticeship Program Accountability and Completion

Position: Letter of Support

Committee: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: April 1, 2026

From: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) is providing this Letter of Support on HB 1165, as amended.

HB 1165 would amend the definition of “Registered Apprenticeship program” to stipulate that programs must have a completion rate of 25%, as determined by the Maryland Department of Labor, to access certain State procurement contracts. DGS supports the intent of this legislation to ensure that more Marylanders benefit from the employment and career-building opportunities provided by registered apprenticeship programs. The Procurement Reform Act (PRA) of 2025 meaningfully expanded the role of apprenticeship programs in state procurement. However, additional provisions have been identified as necessary to facilitate the State’s successful implementation of apprenticeship programs.

Specifically, the Maryland Department of Labor and DGS requested the following amendments to HB 1165:

- Inclusion of definitions for “apprenticeship cohort,” “completion rate,” and the different types of Registered Apprenticeship programs, such as “group joint apprenticeship program” and “individual non-joint apprenticeship program,” to provide increased clarity to practitioners;
- Updating language to clarify that new Registered Apprenticeship programs are still eligible for procurement contracts by stating the completion percentage requirement only applies to programs that have graduated at least one cohort;
- Technical change to say that the Department verifies, rather than “determines,” completion rates; and
- Technical change to the statute established by the 2025 Procurement Reform Act to clarify that covered procurements of \$1,000,000 or more shall utilize a Registered Apprenticeship program or an eligible internship program.

DGS respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 1165, as amended.

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