



February 23, 2026

BEFORE THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE  
AND THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

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Charles E. Daniel

Re: SENATE BILL 673 / HOUSE BILL 1165 – FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Guzzone, Chair Wells, and Honorable Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Chuck Daniel, and I am the Executive Vice President of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Maryland (“MCA–Maryland”), which represents mechanical contracting firms across the State employing skilled workers in plumbing, pipefitting, HVAC, and related trades on both public and private projects.

From a contractor’s perspective, apprenticeship completion is essential to business viability. Mechanical construction is highly technical and safety-sensitive. Contractors depend on apprenticeship programs to produce credentialed journey-level workers who can meet schedules, safety requirements, and quality standards. Programs that consistently graduate apprentices create workforce stability; programs that do not increase risk and cost.

Senate Bill 673 / House Bill 1165 addresses this issue in a measured way by requiring that apprenticeship programs used on covered State procurement demonstrate a **minimum 25 percent completion rate**, as determined by the Maryland Department of Labor. This is a modest baseline—well below what legitimate programs already achieve—but it ensures public contracts rely on programs that deliver real outcomes.

The bill is trade-neutral, does not mandate union affiliation, and preserves existing compliance options. It simply reinforces accountability and helps level the playing field for contractors who invest in training.

For these reasons, the Mechanical Contractors Association of Maryland respectfully urges a **favorable report** on Senate Bill 673 / House Bill 1165.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck".

Chuck Daniel  
Executive Vice President  
Mechanical Contractors Association of Maryland