
February 25, 2026

To: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: **Letter of Information Senate Bill (SB) 673 – State Procurement - Apprenticeship Program Accountability and Completion**

IEC Chesapeake membership includes 150 contractors and 70 business partners. IEC Chesapeake members represent approximately 9,000 employees. In addition, it has approximately 1,300 electrical apprentices. IEC Chesapeake offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

As the Committee deliberates SB673, IEC Chesapeake would like to recommend the probationary period, which is 25% the total duration of a program, not be counted to mirror the same process that the U.S. Department of Labor follows. Another recommendation from IEC Chesapeake is for the Committee to better define what is meant by a 25% completion rate as determined by the Department of Labor.

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.