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HB 1352 - State Procurement - Worker Residency Requirements

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

April 2, 2026

SUPPORT

Donna S. Edwards

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1352. On behalf of 700 affiliated unions, I offer the following comments.

HB 1352 establishes worker residency requirements for state public works contracts. This legislation ensures that our state continues its investment in the growth of our workforce.

A number of states have implemented similar measures such as Delaware, Illinois, California, New York, West Virginia, Colorado, Massachusetts, along with the District of Columbia. By requiring that a certain amount of hours be completed by a Maryland resident on a public works project, this bill strengthens our apprenticeship programs while increasing opportunities for individuals to enter into the skilled trades.

As our state continues to find workable solutions to address our severe workforce shortage and growing fiscal challenges, HB 1352 takes a necessary step in supporting and prioritizing our state's workforce by creating and sustaining quality union jobs for state residents.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on HB 1352.



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HB1352 - TSO - LOI - State Procurement - Worker Re

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Position: INFO

April 2, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 1352 – State Procurement – Worker Residency Requirements

Dear Chair Guzzone and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1352 and provides the following information for the Committee's consideration.

HB 1352 would require covered contractors awarded State-funded projects above \$5 million to ensure that at least 35% of all apprenticeable worker hours are performed by State residents. This requirement would apply to projects located in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County.

Maryland is a small state with numerous neighboring states and Washington, DC, where there is a blended workforce for many companies. Many of our contractors employ workers who reside in these neighboring states, and many construction firms employ Maryland residents who perform work in neighboring states. HB 1352's requirements could further restrict an already limited pool of contractors and lead to an increase in overall bid prices.

Finally, it should be noted that HB 1352 could trigger the application of reciprocal preferences against Maryland companies bidding in other states, as the application of these preferences are often triggered when the home state of the out-of-state contractor has implemented its own preference, as is the case in this bill.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating HB 1352.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Mickler
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
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