

JOHNNY RAY SALLING
Legislative District 6
Baltimore County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Public Safety, Transportation,
and Environment Subcommittee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 321
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3587 · 301-858-3587
800-492-7122 Ext. 3587
JohnnyRay.Salling@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Finance Committee
Chair Pamela Beidle
Vice Chair Antonio Hayes
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis Maryland, 21401

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 777 – Workforce Development and Local Workforce Development Boards.

Major Layoffs and reductions in operations can have significant consequences for workers and the communities that depend on those jobs. While Maryland has systems in place to assist displaced workers, the current structure for distributing certain retraining resources can limit how quickly those resources reach workers at the local level.

Senate Bill 777 strengthens the State's workforce response system by directing the Maryland Department of Labor to allocate funds from the Hospital Employees Retraining Fund to local workforce development boards when hospital closures or workforce reductions occur. Providing these resources directly to local workforce systems will allow communities to respond more quickly and effectively when workers lose their jobs.

This legislation does not remove funds from hospitals nor diminish the support available to hospital employees affected by closures or layoffs. Hospitals are critical institutions in our communities, and the retraining fund exists because hospital workforce reductions can have profound impacts on surrounding communities. Senate Bill 777 does not deplete these funds, create new programs, or require additional state funding. Instead, it ensures that existing resources are deployed more effectively by integrating local workforce development boards into rapid response, retraining, and apprenticeship efforts.

The bill also strengthens coordination within the State's Quick Response Program, ensuring that workforce development boards are engaged when employers experience reductions in operations so displaced workers can be connected more quickly with training and employment opportunities.

By strengthening the role of local workforce development boards in responding to job loss, Senate Bill 777 promotes a more responsive and community-focused approach to workforce recovery. For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 777.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnny Ray Salling".

Senator Johnny Ray Salling