

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

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Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council - AFL-CIO
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Written Testimony of
Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24
Before the Senate Finance Committee On
SB 143 Public Works Contracts - Apprenticeship Requirements (Maryland Workforce
Apprenticeship Utilization Act)

Favorable

February 24, 2026

Madam Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Committee Members,

My name is Rico Albacarys, and I am a member and employee of IBEW Local 24. As a licensed electrician and apprenticeship graduate, I am writing to express my support for SB 143. Apprenticeship provided me with a direct pathway into a skilled career, allowing me to earn while I learned and build a future in the electrical industry.

Senate Bill 143 helps strengthen the career pipeline created through apprenticeship programs by ensuring public works projects utilize qualified apprentices alongside experienced journeypersons. These programs are one of the most effective workforce development tools we have, creating opportunities for individuals to enter the trades while meeting the growing demand for skilled workers.

When the State invests taxpayer dollars into public construction, those projects should also help train the next generation of Maryland's workforce. Expanding apprenticeship participation supports high quality training, safe jobsites, and long-term career opportunities for working families.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 143.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys
Assistant Business Agent
IBEW Local 24