

ALONZO T. WASHINGTON  
*Legislative District 22*  
Prince George's County

Finance Committee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 314  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3155 · 301-858-3155  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3155  
Fax 410-841-3699 · 301-858-3699  
Alonzo.Washington@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair  
Finance Committee  
Maryland State Senate  
Annapolis, Maryland

**Re: SB 869 – Maryland Workforce Launch Pilot Program**  
**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 869, which establishes the Maryland Workforce Launch pilot program within the Maryland Department of Commerce as a new, targeted tool for business attraction and private-sector growth.

SB 869 is designed to help Maryland compete for relocating and expanding businesses by pairing business recruitment with rapid, no-cost workforce training—a model that has been used successfully in other states, including the nationally recognized Georgia Quick Start program. Through this pilot, Commerce would partner with one or two community colleges to deliver free, customized training for employees of qualified companies that relocate to Maryland.

As a pilot, SB 869 is intentionally focused and accountable. The program would concentrate on one or two industries aligned with the State's economic strategy and the training capabilities of participating community colleges. The Department of Commerce would administer the program, ensure participating companies are qualified business entities, and require that supported projects produce net new jobs in Maryland with good wages. Just as important, the bill includes safeguards: Commerce must ensure repayment to the State if a company fails to meet agreed-upon goals, and the Department must report on outcomes and progress to maintain transparency and performance.

Workforce costs are among the most significant expenses for businesses—yet skilled talent is essential to success. SB 869 builds on Maryland's competitive advantages: our strong higher education system, community college infrastructure, workforce training capacity, and highly skilled workforce. This pilot adds a flexible but targeted economic development tool that strengthens Maryland's ability to attract employers, expand opportunity for workers, and grow the private sector—helping us reduce overreliance on federal employment and broaden the State's economic base.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 869.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alonzo T. Washington'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

**Alonzo T. Washington**  
Maryland State Senator