
February 26, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 143 - Public Works Contracts – Apprenticeship Requirements (Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act)

Dear Chair Guzzone and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 143 and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

Senate Bill 143 would require that 20% of all work on construction contracts be done by apprentices or journeymen, even if the scope of the contract does not require it. Meeting the 20% requirement for apprentices, particularly in more specialized crafts, may be difficult for some contractors to achieve. Additionally, this would require substantially more supervision by skilled workers as State law generally requires a one-to-one ratio of apprentice to skilled tradesperson. These challenges may reduce the number of bidders and offerors on State projects and reduce the level of competition for those contracts, which has been shown to increase project costs.

The percentage of required apprenticeships changing every year will be a challenge for MDOT to implement. For any projects we intend to advertise early in the calendar year, MDOT will have to wait for the updated percentage to be released before it can finalize the solicitation documents. This may result in delay of projects as MDOT waits for the apprenticeship number to be announced every year, or delays in the event that a contractor is seeking a waiver.

SB 143’s requirements, and the administrative effort associated with applying for waivers and submitting monthly reports to the Maryland Department of Labor, where relevant, may have the effect of dissuading some contractors and subcontractors from participating in MDOT projects.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee to consider this information during its deliberations of Senate Bill 143.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maryland Department of Transportation
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