

MWA Members

Anne Arundel County

Anne Arundel Workforce
Development Corporation
Kirkland Murray, Executive Director

Baltimore City

Mayor's Office of Employment
Development
MacKenzie Garvin, Director

Baltimore County

Baltimore County Department of
Economic and Workforce
Development
Jonathan Sachs, Director

Carroll County

Carroll County Workforce
Development
Heather Lee Powell, Manager

Frederick County

Frederick County Workforce
Services
Michelle Day, Director

Howard County

Howard County Office of Workforce
Development
Stephanie Adibe, Director

Lower Shore

Lower Shore Workforce Alliance
(Somerset, Wicomico, & Worcester,
Counties)
*Leslie Porter-Cabell, Workforce
Director*

Montgomery County

WorkSource Montgomery, Inc.
*Anthony Featherstone, Executive
Director*

Prince George's County

Prince George's County Workforce
Development Board
*Jeffrey Swilley, Interim Executive
Director*

Southern Maryland

Southern Maryland Job Source
(Calvert, Charles, & St. Mary's
Counties)
Ruthy Davis, Director

Susquehanna Region

Susquehanna Workforce Network,
Inc. (Cecil & Harford Counties)
Kimberly Justus, Executive Director

Upper Shore

Upper Shore Workforce Investment
Board (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent,
Queen Anne's, & Talbot Counties)
Ellen LaFrankie, Executive Director

Western Maryland

Western Maryland Consortium
(Allegany, Garrett &
Washington Counties)
Stacey Ferrare, Executive Director

The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

Re: Support for SB0143 – Public Works Contracts – Apprenticeship Requirements (Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act)

Dear Chairs Beidle and Guzzone, and Members of the Committees:

On behalf of the Maryland Workforce Association, I write in strong support of Senate Bill 143 (SB0143), known as the Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act.

This legislation updates Maryland's public works contracting law to reinforce the use of qualified apprentices and journeyworkers. It expands the types of projects subject to apprenticeship requirements and clarifies that contractors and subcontractors must employ a defined percentage of apprentices and journeyworkers on covered public works projects. It also eliminates outdated provisions that permitted payments to apprenticeship programs in lieu of hiring apprentices.

Why MWA Supports SB0143

- (1) Strengthens Workforce Pathways - SB0143 aligns state procurement policy with workforce development goals by ensuring that public investments directly support on-the-job training for Maryland workers.
- (2) Enhances Equity and Access - By requiring meaningful apprenticeship utilization on public works projects, the bill expands access to quality career opportunities in construction and related trades, especially for historically underrepresented populations.
- (3) Supports Local Workforce Systems - Local workforce boards and MWA members work daily to connect employers, education providers, and jobseekers. SB0143 reinforces that work by creating predictable demand for apprenticeship placements tied to public contracting.

For these reasons, MWA respectfully requests a favorable report on SB0143 from the Senate Finance Committee. This bill represents a practical, workforce-driven approach to public contracting that benefits businesses, workers, and communities across Maryland. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kirkland Murray, President
Maryland Workforce Association