

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building Trades Council - AFL-CIO
Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council - AFL-CIO
Central MD Labor Council - AFL-CIO
Del-Mar-Va Labor Council - AFL-CIO
Maryland State - D.C. - AFL-CIO
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Written Testimony of
Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24
Before the Senate Finance Committee On
SB 03 Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2026

Favorable

February 9, 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. I am writing to express our support for SB 03, the Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2026. When Maryland workers are laid off through no fault of their own, the impact on household finances can be immediate and severe. Right now, unemployment insurance in our state pays less than the minimum wage, which means too many families struggle to meet even their most basic needs.

I have personally relied on unemployment insurance, and I know firsthand how important that lifeline is for Maryland families. Strengthening these benefits will help families stay current on rent and utilities, buy groceries, and maintain stability while they work to get back on their feet. Of course, construction work is cyclical, but so are many other segments of the economy. We have seen during recent economic disruptions, including the Key Bridge collapse and other recessions, that when workers receive added support, they recover more quickly and local economies are stronger as a result.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 03.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys
Assistant Business Agent
IBEW Local 24