

February 26, 2026

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee
Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: **Letter of Information SB143 - Public Works Contracts - Apprenticeship Requirements (Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act)**

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents approximately 150 electrical contractors who employ approximately 9,000 workers in the mid-Atlantic region. In addition, IEC Chesapeake has nearly 1,300 electrical apprentices. IEC Chesapeake would like to provide the Committee with informational comments on SB143.

IEC Chesapeake is a strong supporter of increasing apprenticeship opportunities in Maryland. As noted above, IEC Chesapeake currently has approximately 1,300 electrical apprentices in the electrical industry. IEC Chesapeake understands it is the intent of SB143 to increase apprenticeship opportunities in Maryland. IEC Chesapeake offers the following comments for the Committee's consideration.

- On Page 6, Lines 2-4, we believe that the applicable percentage of 20% beginning January 1, 2027 may be unrealistic.
- On Page 6, Lines 5-7, we note that there are no criteria listed for the Labor Secretary in determining the applicable percentage for the following calendar year.
- On Page 7, Lines 9-12, we recommend not to eliminate the ability of a subcontractor to contribute to a registered apprenticeship program.
- On Page 8, Lines 16-19, we believe the requirement of at least 90 calendar days before the date the contractor or subcontract without a participation agreement to use apprentice labor may be too short.
- On Page 8, Lines 21-24, we believe that it is duplicative and unnecessary for a contractor or subcontractor to be required to submit a monthly report to the Department of Labor since the information is already provided through a certified payroll report to the Department of Labor.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 301-646-0197 or at gshmelzer@iecchesapeake.com or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at kevin@kokeffelaw.com.

About Us

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Our headquarters are located in Laurel, Maryland. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship program for training electricians. In addition, IEC Chesapeake promotes green economic growth by providing education and working with contractor

members, industry partners, government policy makers and inspectors to increase the use of renewable energy.