

# **SB0675 – State Finance and Procurement – Prevailin**

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



## TESTIMONY

### **SB0675 – State Finance and Procurement – Prevailing Wage Rate – Calculation**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Alonzo Washington

**Committee:** Senate Finance

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Aileen Alex, Co-Chair

**Position:** **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in support of **SB0675** on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

SB0675 improves wage accuracy for all public works construction workers. It ensures that prevailing wage rates are calculated using relevant construction-sector data, not inflated or mismatched wage information from investor-owned utilities.

This protects the integrity of the wage-setting process and prevents distortions in public procurement. The Commissioner of Labor and Industry is required to exclude inappropriate utility-sector data—and to vacate and recalculate any rate that relied on it.

This bill strengthens transparency, fairness, and accountability in Maryland's prevailing wage system. Accurate wage determinations support workers, responsible contractors, and the quality of taxpayer-funded projects.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB0675.

**Public Testimony SB 675 .docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lien Hoang

Position: FAV

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

Finance Committee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 314  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 11, 2026

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

**Re: SB 675 - State Finance and Procurement - Prevailing Wage Rate - Calculation**

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully submit this letter to you today in strong support of Senate Bill 675, legislation that provides necessary statutory clarity to prevent the disruption of utility infrastructure projects across Maryland and protects our constituents from unnecessary rate increases.

For decades, the direct employees of investor-owned utilities have traditionally been excluded from Maryland's prevailing wage programs, a precedent that recognized the unique, specialized, and long-term nature of utility operations. During the 2021 Special Session, the General Assembly passed legislation to expand prevailing wage requirements to include the contractors and subcontractors working on certain underground gas and electric infrastructure projects.

This legislation is a necessary corrective measure that directly addresses an issue stemming from the administrative implementation of that 2021 law. To establish these new contractor rates, the Department of Labor recently initiated a Targeted Prevailing Wage Survey. However, the methodology of this current survey presents significant operational challenges and fundamentally strays from our original legislative intent.

Specifically, the Department has expanded the survey to include the wage data of the utilities' own internal, direct employees. Mixing internal utility employee data—which operates under distinct compensation, collective bargaining, and retention models—with private contractor data artificially skews the calculation. It creates a rate that does not reflect the actual private-sector contractor market.

Senate Bill 675 provides clear, necessary statutory guidance. It preserves fair market data by explicitly prohibiting the Commissioner from using the wage data of direct utility employees to calculate prevailing wage rates for outside contractors. It ensures that the expansion of prevailing

wage remains fair, predictable, and grounded in the actual construction market as the General Assembly originally intended.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 675.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alonzo T. Washington', written in a cursive style.

Alonzo T. Washington  
Maryland State Senator  
District 22

# **Testimony in support of SB0675 - Prevailing Wage R**

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

SB0675\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
03/11/2026  
Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

**TESTIMONY ON SB#0675 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**State Finance and Procurement - Prevailing Wage Rate – Calculation**

**TO:** Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0675, **State Finance and Procurement - Prevailing Wage Rate - Calculation**

“Prevailing wage rate” means the hourly rate of wages paid in the locality as determined by the Commissioner. For each public work to which this ... applies, the Commissioner shall determine the prevailing wage rate for each classification of worker engaged in work of the same or a similar character.

The companies covered under this proposed law are the “investor–owned electric company”, an electric company that is not a municipal electric utility or an electric cooperative or an “investor–owned gas company”, a gas company that is not a municipal gas utility or a gas cooperative.

This bill will modify the method by which the Commissioner of Labor and Industry determine a prevailing wage rate and require the Commissioner to vacate a certain prevailing wage rate under certain circumstances.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0675.**

**SB0675 Written Testimony IBEW LU 410.pdf**

Uploaded by: Brian Terwilliger

Position: UNF



**LOCAL UNION 410  
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Committee: Finance Committee**

**Testimony on SB0675 State Finance and Procurement- Prevailing Wage Rate- Calculation**

**Position: Unfavorable**

**Hearing Date: March 11th, 2026, at 1:00 PM**

Good afternoon, Chair Beidle, Members of the Finance Committee

My name is Brian Terwilliger, and I am the Assistant Business Manager for IBEW Local 410, which represents over 1,450 non-managerial employees at Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE), an investor-owned utility. On behalf of our members, I strongly oppose Senate Bill 0675 and request an unfavorable report.

SB0675 amends the prevailing wage determination process under State Finance and Procurement Article §17-208 by prohibiting the Commissioner of Labor and Industry from surveying or using wage data from employees directly employed by investor-owned gas companies, electric companies, or combination gas-and-electric companies. It further requires the Commissioner to vacate and recalculate any existing prevailing wage rate that included such data upon petition.

This change would exclude the wages and benefits earned by BGE workers, and those of other investor-owned utilities, from the prevailing wage calculation for underground gas and electric infrastructure projects under Public Utilities Article §5-305. BGE employees perform a substantial portion of this work on the system, often accounting for roughly 50% of the skilled workforce engaged in the construction, reconstruction, installation, restoration, and alteration of underground infrastructure. These workers are covered by collective bargaining agreements that reflect negotiated standards for fair wages, comprehensive benefits, apprenticeship-style training, and safety practices.

The fundamental principle of prevailing wage laws is to ensure that wages paid on publicly regulated or utility projects reflect the actual wages prevailing in the locality for the type of work performed. By deliberately excluding the wages of workers at investor-owned utilities, who are directly employed to perform the exact same or highly similar work, the bill violates that core principle. It artificially suppresses the prevailing rate by ignoring a major, stable segment of the workforce (approximately half in many cases) and basing the rate solely on private contractor data, which often suppresses labor costs, not profits, due to competitive bidding pressures.

IBEW Local 410's Written Testimony

Unfavorable of SB 0675

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Page 2 of 2

The result is the opposite of fair and reasonable wage determination: it drives down compensation across the board, erodes benefits, and creates a race to the bottom. Contractors will compete aggressively on labor costs, leading to reliance on lower-paid, less experienced, or transient workers who lack the depth of training, safety culture, and system-specific knowledge that BGE's union workforce brings to these critical, high-risk projects. This outcome undermines worker protections, increases safety hazards for both employees and the public, and jeopardizes the reliability of Maryland's gas and electric infrastructure, all while providing no meaningful savings to ratepayers.

Labor costs represent only a small fraction (typically around 2% or less) of total utility expenses passed to customers. Rate differences are overwhelmingly driven by fuel prices, energy market dynamics, grid investments, and PJM capacity costs, not by whether prevailing wage calculations include the wages of utility employees.

All workers performing the same or similar work in the locality deserve to have their collectively bargained wages and benefits considered in the prevailing wage process. Removing BGE workers' data removes roughly half the relevant workforce from the equation, distorts the true prevailing rate, and harms the very people the law is intended to protect.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to issue an unfavorable report on SB0675.

Sincerely,

Brian Terwilliger  
IBEW Local 410  
Assistant Business Manager

**Jason Ascher - OPPOSE - SB 675- State Finance and**

Uploaded by: Jason Ascher

Position: UNF



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## Finance Committee

**To:** Senator Pam Beidle, Chair; Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair; Members of the Committee  
**From:** Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

### **OPPOSE - SB 675: State Finance and Procurement – Prevailing Wage Rate – Calculation**

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our over 10,500 highly skilled union pipe trades workers across Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia, through its affiliated locals, including UA Steamfitters Local 602; UA Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 5; UA Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486; and UA Sprinkler Fitters Local 669, who perform critical fire-protection and life-safety work, I request an unfavorable report on **Senate Bill 675**.

**Senate Bill 675** undermines Maryland's prevailing wage law by excluding wage data from investor-owned gas and electric utilities, which are among the most significant employers of skilled pipe trades labor in the State. These employers establish market-based wage standards for complex, safety-critical infrastructure work. Excluding this data does not improve accuracy—it artificially suppresses prevailing wage determinations.

The predictable consequence of this bill is downward pressure on prevailing wages on public works projects, undermining collectively bargained standards and disadvantaging responsible contractors who invest in training, safety, and apprenticeship programs.

The prevailing wage law exists to reflect actual labor conditions in the locality. **Senate Bill 675** instead distorts the labor market by selectively excluding high-wage, market-relevant data—contrary to the statute's purpose and harmful to Maryland workers.

For these reasons, the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association respectfully urges an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,  
Jason Ascher  
Political Director  
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

# **M&A\_ Petrovia Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 486\_SB**

Uploaded by: Roger Manno

Position: UNF



**PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS**

**UA LOCAL UNION 486**

8100 Sandpiper Circle, Suite 200

Baltimore, Maryland 21236

Phone: 410-866-4380

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www.UALocal486.com

Founded 1889

**Pasquale D. Petrovia**

*Business Manager*

**Gary G. Glab**

*Financial Secretary/Treasurer*

**Harry M. Schleicher Jr.**

*Business Agent*

**C. Ryan Ambrose**

*Business Agent*

**Stephen M. Nitsch**

*Business Agent*

**Christopher D. Anderson**

*Business Agent*

**Todd E. Eckley**

*Recruiter*

**TESTIMONY OF PASQUALE PETROVIA**

**BUSINESS MANAGER**

**UA PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 486**

**BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**AND THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**SENATE BILL 675 / HOUSE BILL 997 – UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Beidle, Chair Wells, and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

On behalf of UA Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486, I respectfully oppose Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997.

Prevailing wage laws are intended to prevent the undercutting of local wage standards on public projects. This bill does the opposite by excluding relevant, real-world wage data from the prevailing wage calculation, resulting in artificially suppressed rates.

For Local 486 members who perform technically demanding plumbing, gas fitting, and steamfitting work on public infrastructure projects, those lower rates threaten wage stability, workforce retention, and fair competition among contractors.

UA Local 486 urges an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Pasquale Petrovia

Business Manager

UA Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486

# **M&A\_Anderson Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 486\_SB6**

Uploaded by: Roger Manno

Position: UNF



**PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS**

**UA LOCAL UNION 486**

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**Pasquale D. Petrovia**

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*Financial Secretary/Treasurer*

**Harry M. Schleicher Jr.**

*Business Agent*

**C. Ryan Ambrose**

*Business Agent*

**Stephen M. Nitsch**

*Business Agent*

**Christopher D. Anderson**

*Business Agent*

**Todd E. Eckley**

*Recruiter*

**TESTIMONY OF CHRIS ANDERSON**

**BUSINESS AGENT**

**UA PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 486**

**BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**AND THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**SENATE BILL 675 / HOUSE BILL 997 – UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Beidle, Chair Wells, and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

On behalf of UA Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486, I respectfully oppose Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997.

Prevailing wage laws are intended to prevent the undercutting of local wage standards on public projects. This bill does the opposite by excluding relevant, real-world wage data from the prevailing wage calculation, resulting in artificially suppressed rates.

For Local 486 members who perform technically demanding plumbing, gas fitting, and steamfitting work on public infrastructure projects, those lower rates threaten wage stability, workforce retention, and fair competition among contractors.

UA Local 486 urges an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

*Chris Anderson*

Chris Anderson

Business Agent

UA Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486

**M&A\_Ascher MAPTA\_SB675 HB997\_Testimony\_UNF.pdf**

Uploaded by: Roger Manno

Position: UNF



TESTIMONY OF JASON ASHER  
POLITICAL DIRECTOR  
MID-ATLANTIC PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION  
BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
AND THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
SENATE BILL 675 / HOUSE BILL 997 – UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Beidle, Chair Wells, and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association (“MAPTA”), I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997.

MAPTA represents over 10,500 highly skilled union pipe trades workers across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia through its affiliated locals, including UA Steamfitters Local 602; UA Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 5; UA Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486; UA Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 10; UA Plumbers Local 28; UA Steamfitters Local 100; and UA Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 24 (Richmond area). MAPTA also includes UA Sprinkler Fitters Local 669, a national local representing approximately 16,000 sprinkler fitters nationwide, who perform critical fire-protection and life-safety work. Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997 undermines Maryland’s prevailing wage law by excluding wage data from investor-owned gas and electric utilities, which are among the most significant employers of skilled pipe trades labor in the State. These employers establish market-based wage standards for complex, safety-critical infrastructure work. Excluding this data does not improve accuracy—it artificially suppresses prevailing wage determinations.

The predictable consequence of this bill is downward pressure on prevailing wages on public works projects, undermining collectively bargained standards and disadvantaging responsible contractors who invest in training, safety, and apprenticeship programs.

Prevailing wage law exists to reflect actual labor conditions in the locality. Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997 instead distorts the labor market by selectively excluding high-wage, market-relevant data—contrary to the purpose of the statute and harmful to Maryland workers.

For these reasons, the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association respectfully urges an unfavorable report.  
Sincerely,

Jason Asher  
Political Director  
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

**M&A\_Bonilla Steamfitters Local 602\_SB675 HB997\_Tes**

Uploaded by: Roger Manno

Position: UNF

# Journeyman Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



## Local Union No. 602

8700 ASHWOOD DRIVE • 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR • CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD 20743

TELEPHONE: (301) 333-2356 • FAX: (301) 333-1730

AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

TESTIMONY OF SIDNEY BONILLA  
BUSINESS MANAGER / FINANCIAL SECRETARY-TREASURER  
UA STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 602

BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

AND THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 675 / HOUSE BILL 997 – UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Beidle, Chair Wells, and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

I submit this testimony on behalf of UA Steamfitters Local 602 in opposition to Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997.

Local 602 represents highly skilled steamfitters who perform complex, safety-critical work on public infrastructure and utility-related projects throughout Maryland. The wages earned by our members reflect the training, certification, and responsibility required to perform this work safely and efficiently.

By prohibiting the Commissioner from considering wage data from investor-owned gas and electric utilities, this legislation artificially lowers prevailing wage calculations, producing rates that do not reflect actual labor market conditions. Those distorted rates will flow directly into public works contracts, placing downward pressure on wages and undermining established labor standards.

UA Steamfitters Local 602 respectfully urges an unfavorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Sidney Bonilla  
Business Manager / Financial Secretary-Treasurer  
UA Steamfitters Local 602

# **M&A\_Gary Armstrong\_Ironworkers 5\_SB675 HB997\_Testi**

Uploaded by: Roger Manno

Position: UNF



**TESTIMONY OF GARY ARMSTRONG  
BUSINESS MANAGER / FINANCIAL SECRETARY-TREASURER IRONWORKERS LOCAL 5  
BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
AND THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
SENATE BILL 675 / HOUSE BILL 997 – UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chair, Beidle, Chair Wells, and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

I submit this testimony on behalf of Ironworkers Local 5 in opposition to Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997.

Ironworkers Local 5 represents skilled tradespeople who perform some of the most hazardous and technically demanding work on public construction projects, including structural steel, reinforcing steel, and major infrastructure components. The wages earned by our members reflect the training, certifications, and risk inherent in this work.

Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997 alters prevailing wage calculations by excluding substantial portions of the construction labor market from consideration, resulting in artificially reduced wage determinations. Those reductions will flow directly into public works contracts, placing downward pressure on wages and undermining the standards that protect worker safety and project quality.

Prevailing wage laws are intended to ensure that public construction does not drive wages down or reward low-road practices. This legislation moves Maryland in the opposite direction. Ironworkers Local 5 respectfully urges the Committees to issue an unfavorable report. Sincerely, Gary Armstrong Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer Ironworkers Local 5.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Armstrong  
Business Manager / FST  
Ironworkers Local 5

# **M&A\_Mahoney EASRCC Carpenters\_SB675 HB997\_Testimon**

Uploaded by: Roger Manno

Position: UNF



**Eastern Atlantic States**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

8500 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 | Phone: 301-735-6660 | EASCARPENTERS.ORG

**TESTIMONY OF FRANK MAHONEY**

**DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR  
EASTERN ATLANTIC STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS**

**BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
AND THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**SENATE BILL 675 / HOUSE BILL 997 – UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Beidle, Chair Wells, and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

On behalf of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (EASRCC), I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997.

The Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters represents tens of thousands of highly skilled union carpenters across the Mid-Atlantic region, including Maryland. Our members perform critical work on public buildings, infrastructure, energy facilities, and large-scale construction projects that demand precision, safety, and extensive apprenticeship training.

Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997 undermines Maryland's prevailing wage law by excluding relevant wage data from major segments of the skilled construction labor market. By narrowing the data set used to determine prevailing wages, the bill artificially suppresses wage determinations, rather than reflecting actual market conditions.

For carpenters working on public projects, this means downward pressure on wages, erosion of established labor standards, and increased difficulty sustaining apprenticeship pipelines that ensure a safe and qualified workforce. Prevailing wage laws exist to stabilize wages and promote fair competition—not to reduce labor costs by excluding real-world wage benchmarks.

For these reasons, the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters respectfully urges an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997.

Sincerely,

Frank Mahoney  
Deputy Political Director  
Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters

**M&A\_MCAMW\_SB675\_HB997\_Testimony\_UNF.pdf**

Uploaded by: Roger Manno

Position: UNF



**TESTIMONY OF THOMAS BELLO**  
**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**  
**MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON**  
**BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**AND THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**  
**SENATE BILL 675 / HOUSE BILL 997 – UNFAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Beidle, Chair Wells, and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

On behalf of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington (“MCAMW”), I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997.

MCAMW represents approximately 200 signatory construction contractors, employing roughly 10,000 skilled workers and more than 1,500 apprentices across the region. Our member firms contribute significantly to the regional and State economy, generating nearly \$2 billion in annual revenue and approximately \$500 million each year in combined state, federal, and local tax revenue.

MCAMW contractors rely on accurate, market-based prevailing wage determinations to bid public projects responsibly, predictably, and competitively. Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997 undermines that framework by excluding wage data from investor-owned gas and electric utilities, which are major participants in the skilled construction labor market.

By selectively removing this data, the bill artificially suppresses prevailing wage rates, creating uncertainty in procurement and placing responsible, signatory contractors at a competitive disadvantage. It rewards low-road bidding practices while penalizing employers that invest heavily in apprenticeship training, workforce development, and safety.

Prevailing wage law should reflect the real labor market, not an artificially narrowed subset of employers. For these reasons, the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington respectfully urges an unfavorable report.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Bello", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Thomas L. Bello  
Executive Vice President  
Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington

**M&A\_UA Local 5\_SB675 HB997\_Testimony\_UNF.pdf**

Uploaded by: Roger Manno

Position: UNF



# PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION NO. 5

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO

4755 Walden Ln. Lanham, MD 20706 • 301-899-7861 (T) • 301-899-7868 (F)



TESTIMONY OF TERRIEA "T" SMALLS  
BUSINESS MANAGER  
UA PLUMBERS AND GASFITTERS LOCAL 5  
BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
AND THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
SENATE BILL 675 / HOUSE BILL 997 – UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Beidle, Chair Wells, and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

I write on behalf of UA Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 5 in opposition to Senate Bill 675 / House Bill 997.

This legislation fundamentally alters how prevailing wages are calculated by excluding significant segments of the labor market from consideration. The result is an artificially reduced prevailing wage rate that fails to reflect the true cost of skilled plumbing and gasfitting work on public projects.

Such an outcome undermines workers, destabilizes labor standards, and contradicts the core purpose of Maryland's prevailing wage law.

UA Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 5 respectfully urges an unfavorable report.

Respectfully,

Terriea "T" Smalls

Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer

UA Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 5

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**Terriea "T" L. Smalls**  
Business Mgr. / Financial Sec-Treas.

**Michael S. Canales, Jr.**  
Asst. Business Manager

**Anthony A. Solis**  
Business Rep. and Organizer

**Julius Wright**  
Business Rep. and Organizer



**LOI SB 675 2026.pdf**

Uploaded by: Marissa Yancone

Position: INFO



LEGISLATIVE OFFICE  
45 Calvert Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
443-401-5129

## MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON SB 675

**TO:** Finance Committee  
**FROM:** Maryland Department of Labor  
**DATE:** 03/09/2026  
**BILL:** Senate Bill 675

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### **MDL POSITION:** INFORMATIONAL

The Maryland Department of Labor respectfully submits this Letter of Information regarding Senate Bill 675 and its fiscal and operational implications.

Senate Bill 675 would exclude wages and fringe benefits paid to employees of investor-owned utility companies from the determination of prevailing wage rates under § 17-208 of the Maryland Prevailing Wage Law.

The Division of Labor & Industry's Prevailing Wage Unit administers the annual wage survey conducted pursuant to § 17-208, which is used to establish prevailing wage rates for covered public works construction projects. The survey process relies on voluntary submissions from stakeholders. Last year, rates were submitted for over 29,000 Maryland workers. Current law does not categorically exclude any class of submissions from the rate-setting process; rather, the statute provides that the prevailing wage rate shall be the rate paid in the locality on projects similar to the proposed public work, for work of the same or a similar character.

It is possible that excluding a class of wage submissions from the rate-setting process would affect prevailing wage calculations. If rates were to decrease as a result of the bill, small businesses that customarily pay wages at or above current prevailing rates may experience competitive impacts. Conversely, if rates were to increase, businesses paying below those rates would be required to adjust wages for covered work; however, those higher labor costs would apply uniformly to all contractors competing for work subject to the law.

To implement the bill, the Department would likely need to modify the existing survey instrument to add a data field capable of identifying and segregating investor-owned utility wage submissions and recode the survey application to create

[www.labor.maryland.gov](http://www.labor.maryland.gov)



LEGISLATIVE OFFICE  
45 Calvert Street  
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an exception that excludes such data from the rate-setting process. However, these changes could be absorbed with existing resources.

The Department respectfully asks the Committee to consider this information, and is available to provide additional information or technical assistance as the Committee considers this legislation.

For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti at [Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov](mailto:Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov).

[www.labor.maryland.gov](http://www.labor.maryland.gov)

WES MOORE, GOVERNOR | ARUNA MILLER, LT. GOVERNOR | PORTIA WU, SECRETARY