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## **Government, Labor, and Elections**

**To:** Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair; Delegate Ken Kerr, Vice Chair; Members of the Committee  
**From:** Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

### **HB 1165 – STATE PROCUREMENT – APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLETION**

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our five United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Locals, which represent over 10,500 Plumbers, Steamfitters, Welders, HVAC Techs, and Sprinkler Fitters across Maryland. I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 1165**.

The Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades have a long-standing commitment to apprenticeship training as the foundation of workforce development in the construction industry. Our registered apprenticeship programs are jointly administered, highly regulated, and designed to produce safe, productive, journey-level workers capable of meeting the demands of complex public projects.

Current State procurement law appropriately requires bidders and contractors either to participate in a certified apprenticeship training program or to make payments into the State Apprenticeship Training Fund. House Bill 1165 builds on that existing framework by adding an important accountability measure: ensuring that apprenticeship programs utilized in State procurements are not only registered, but effective.

By requiring registered apprenticeship programs to demonstrate a minimum 25 percent completion rate, this legislation reinforces the principle that public dollars should support training programs that successfully graduate apprentices into the skilled workforce. This provision does not mandate the creation of new programs, nor does it eliminate existing compliance options. Instead, it establishes a reasonable performance standard that aligns State procurement with real workforce outcomes.

From the perspective of the pipe trades, apprenticeship completion is essential. Programs that consistently fail to graduate apprentices undermine workforce planning, jobsite safety, and the long-term availability of skilled labor. By contrast, programs with demonstrated completion outcomes strengthen the construction workforce and ensure that State procurement investments yield lasting public value.

**House Bill 1165** promotes fairness by applying this accountability standard uniformly across covered procurements, while preserving flexibility for contractors through existing statutory pathways. In doing so, it strengthens the integrity of State procurement without disrupting established labor-management training systems that are already delivering results.

For these reasons, the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association (MAPTA) respectfully urges a favorable report on **House Bill 1165**.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher  
Political Director  
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

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**Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 5** – Lanham, MD  
**Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 10** – Richmond, VA/Roanoke, VA  
**Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 110** – Norfolk, VA  
**Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 74** – Newark, DE

**Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486** – Baltimore, MD  
**Steamfitters Local 602** – Capitol Heights, MD  
**Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669** – Columbia, MD