
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1165

TO: Government, Labor, and Elections Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor)
DATE: March 10, 2026
BILL: State Procurement - Apprenticeship Program Accountability and Completion

MD LABOR POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

HB1165 would amend the definition of “Registered Apprenticeship program” to stipulate that programs must have a completion rate of 25%, as determined by the Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor), to access certain State procurement contracts.

The Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL) within MD Labor operates as Maryland’s State Apprenticeship Agency; the Department is in support of HB1165 with several amendments, outlined below.

Specifically, MD Labor requests that the following amendments be added to HB1165:

1. Inclusion of definitions for “apprenticeship cohort,” “completion rate,” and the different types of Registered Apprenticeship programs, such as “group joint apprenticeship program” and “individual non-joint apprenticeship program,” to provide increased clarity to practitioners;
2. Updating language to clarify that new Registered Apprenticeship programs are still eligible for procurement contracts by stating the completion percentage requirement *only* applies to programs that have graduated at least one cohort;
3. Technical change to say that the Department **verifies**, rather than “determines,” completion rates; and,
4. Technical change to the statute established by the 2025 Procurement Reform Act to clarify that covered procurements of \$1,000,000 or more shall utilize a Registered Apprenticeship program **or** an eligible internship program.

MD Labor has shared formal copies of the above referenced amendments with the bill sponsors and very much appreciates their collaboration on this proposal. MD Labor encourages conversations to improve the strength of Registered Apprenticeship programs and respectfully asks the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB1165 **with** the stated amendments.

For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti at Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov.