



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

CHRISTOPHER M. CASH: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President  
WILLIAM T. NG: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • MARK F. PONTELLO: Treasurer



## PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS-APPRENTICESHIP REQUIREMENTS Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee February 19, 2026 SUPPORT

**TO:** Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr and Members of the Government, Labor and Elections Committee

**FROM:** Tom Clark, Political Director, Intl' Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Madame Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, members of the Committee, on behalf of the 13,000 members of IBEW Local 26 and my fellow Building Trades siblings, I ask that you **support HB 864**.

Apprenticeship programs have been in existence for hundreds of years. The simple idea of classroom work, coupled with on-the-job-training has produced generations of skilled labor. True apprenticeship programs help the young worker as much as it helps the employer and industry. The knowledge learned by the apprentice while his or her starting pay is low, but always increasing, is a benefit to the contractor. Within a few years this system creates a qualified journeyman on the job and a financially viable citizen in the very community they live in. Public works projects are the perfect vessel to implement the proven apprenticeship program, In other words, it's a win for the worker, the employer and the industry. HB 864 sets guidelines for the use of apprentices and specifically brings the University of Maryland System as well as Baltimore City Community College into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with the use of apprentices on their public works projects. These two great institutions have escaped the model of job site training for the Maryland citizens that literally fund these colleges through taxes. HB 864 corrects this long-time injustice to the Maryland workforce.

I respectfully ask that you **support HB 864** and take advantage of the greatest system of workforce development ever created, the apprenticeship program. Thank you.





# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

CHRISTOPHER M. CASH: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President  
WILLIAM T. NG: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • MARK F. PONTELLO: Treasurer

