



T 301.621.9545
800.470.3013
F 301.912.1665
www.iecchesapeake.com

8751 Freestate Drive
Suite 250
Laurel, MD 20723

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To: Members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: **Oppose House Bill (HB) 1352 – State Procurement - Worker Residency Requirements**

IEC Chesapeake membership includes 150 contractors and 70 business partners. IEC Chesapeake members represent approximately 9,000 employees. In addition, it has approximately 1300 electrical apprentices.

There will be many times when the residency requirements outlined in HB1352 will be met. However, contractors should not be subject to penalties when they cannot meet the residency for requirements for Maryland state funded projects. Getting skilled labor is challenging today. The state of Maryland should not be creating more obstacles to hiring willing and available skilled workers. Maryland borders on four states and the District of Columbia. Given the ease of moving between our neighboring jurisdictions, contractors often perform projects in more than one jurisdiction. Many apprentices and employees live outside of Maryland when working on Maryland publicly funded projects. It is also common for Maryland residents to work on construction projects in neighboring states and the District of Columbia.

For the above reasons, IEC Chesapeake is requesting an unfavorable report. 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@kokeeffelaw.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.