

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building Trades Council - AFL-CIO
Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council - AFL-CIO
Central MD Labor Council - AFL-CIO
Del-Mar-Va Labor Council - AFL-CIO
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Written Testimony of
Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24
Before the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee On
HB 997 State Finance and Procurement - Prevailing Wage Rate - Calculation

Unfavorable

February 27, 2026

Madam Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Committee Members,

My name is Rico Albacarys, and I am a member and employee of IBEW Local 24, writing in opposition to HB 997.

Maryland's prevailing wage law is intended to reflect the true local market for skilled labor and ensure that public projects are completed by qualified and properly trained workers. HB 997 undermines that process by prohibiting the Commissioner of Labor and Industry from considering wage data from investor owned gas and electric utilities when determining prevailing wage rates.

These utility workers represent some of the most skilled and highly trained individuals performing this work in Maryland. Removing their wages from the calculation artificially lowers prevailing wage rates and weakens the standard for publicly funded construction projects. The likely result is fewer trained workers on job sites, reducing the safety and reliability of our public infrastructure.

For these reasons, we respectfully request an unfavorable report on House Bill 997.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys
Assistant Business Agent
IBEW Local 24