



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



HB 299 – FRAUD PREVENTION, PREVAILING & LIVING WAGES PROHIBITIONS, PENALTIES, AND ENFORCEMENT House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee February 12, 2026, SUPPORT

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

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

Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the Committee. I respectfully ask you to join with me, Local 26 members, the Building Trades and labor unions throughout our state in **full support of HB 299**. A fraud prevention bill that will help Maryland workers, even the playing field for honest Maryland businesses and increase the state coffers by having unscrupulous contractors pay their fair share

This bill will get the Attorney General and the Comptroller on the same page as the Maryland DOL. With these 3 offices working together, workplace or pay-check fraud could be curtailed at the state level. Too many bad contractors set up shops in the Freestate, to take advantage of the lack of enforcement and protection of workers. With this piece of legislation, we can make a dent in the paycheck fraud that continues to harm our workers and our taxable income. I am quite proud of labor unions that have set pay scales of workers and the ability to address such grievances. Unfortunately, many that are unrepresented face being uncompensated for their work. Union or non-union, every worker deserves the correct pay. Sadly, it is usually the Hispanic worker that is taken advantage when it comes to workplace fraud. A legal citizen or otherwise, any person of Hispanic heritage is at risk in this hostile environment. I can only imagine someone working overtime and not being fully compensated, and how they must contemplate whether to seek what is right or remain silent in avoid any confrontation with ICE, whether it be justified or not. The anger should really be geared towards the unscrupulous employers that prey on these hardworking people. These employers also commit tax fraud, each time they falsify their payroll, or underpay Unemployment Insurance. The enforcement of these laws will go a long way to reducing the deficit that our state faces.

For these reasons and for the protection of Maryland workers I ask that you give a **favorable vote to HB 299**. Thank you





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