



PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION NO. 5

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO

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IN SUPPORT

SENATE BILL 673 / HOUSE BILL 1165

STATE PROCUREMENT – APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLETION

BEFORE THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
AND THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Dear Chair Guzzone, Chair Wells, and Honorable Members of the Committees:

On behalf of Plumbers Local 5, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 673 / House Bill 1165.

Plumbers Local 5 represents union plumbers who perform essential work on public construction projects throughout Maryland. Our members come through a state-registered apprenticeship program that prioritizes safety, technical excellence, and long-term career development. These programs are the backbone of a skilled, reliable construction workforce.

This legislation takes an important and practical step forward. It ensures that apprenticeship programs used on State projects are not just registered on paper, but actually producing results. Requiring a minimum completion rate is a straightforward and reasonable way to measure whether a program is doing what it is intended to do — train apprentices and graduate skilled workers.

Programs that consistently graduate apprentices strengthen the workforce, improve jobsite safety, and protect the public investment in State construction projects. Programs that fail to move apprentices through to completion, on the other hand, undermine workers' career prospects and do not serve the public interest. Senate Bill 673 / House Bill 1165 addresses that gap in a responsible and balanced way.

Importantly, the bill maintains existing compliance pathways while adding a layer of accountability. It promotes fairness and workforce quality without creating unnecessary administrative burdens.

For these reasons, Plumbers Local 5 respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 673 / House Bill 1165.

Sincerely,

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Plumbers Local 5

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