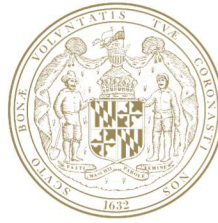


JEFFERSON L. GHRIST
Co-CHAIR

NATALIE ZIEGLER
Co-CHAIR



H. KEVIN ANDERSON
TERRY BAKER
KEVIN B. HORNBERGER
ANDRE V. JOHNSON, JR.
STEVE JOHNSON
SHEREE SAMPLE-HUGHES

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
HOUSE RURAL CAUCUS

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells
Chair, Government, Labor, & Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, Health Committee
241 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Wells, Chair Bagnall, and Honorable Committee Members:

On behalf of the Rural Caucus, we are writing to express our support for **HB 1358 Labor and Employment - Workforce Development and Local Workforce Development Boards (Local Workforce Solutions Investment Act)**.

This bill would ensure state funding and coordination through local workforce development boards in the event of a major workforce disruptions in an area and ensure coordination and support for communities during a disruption – a need that is particularly acute in rural areas.

For these reasons, the Rural Caucus supports HB 1358 and requests a favorable report.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jefferson L. Ghrist".

Delegate Jefferson L. Ghrist
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natalie Ziegler".

Delegate Natalie Ziegler
Co-Chair