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## Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

**To:** Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair; Delegate Ken Kerr, Vice Chair; Members of the Committee  
**From:** Jason Asher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

### **OPPOSE – HB 997: State Finance and Procurement – Prevailing Wage Rate – Calculation**

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our over 10,500 highly skilled union pipe trades workers across Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia, through its affiliated locals, including UA Steamfitters Local 602; UA Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 5; UA Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486; and UA Sprinkler Fitters Local 669, who perform critical fire-protection and life-safety work, I request an unfavorable report on **House Bill 997**.

**House Bill 997** undermines Maryland's prevailing wage law by excluding wage data from investor-owned gas and electric utilities, which are among the most significant employers of skilled pipe trades labor in the State. These employers establish market-based wage standards for complex, safety-critical infrastructure work. Excluding this data does not improve accuracy—it artificially suppresses prevailing wage determinations.

The predictable consequence of this bill is downward pressure on prevailing wages on public works projects, undermining collectively bargained standards and disadvantaging responsible contractors who invest in training, safety, and apprenticeship programs.

The prevailing wage law exists to reflect actual labor conditions in the locality. **House Bill 997** instead distorts the labor market by selectively excluding high-wage, market-relevant data—contrary to the statute's purpose and harmful to Maryland workers.

For these reasons, the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association respectfully urges an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,  
Jason Asher  
Political Director  
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association