



Project JumpStart, Inc
Workforce Development

Written Testimony in Support of SB0856 / HB1338

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Project JumpStart is a Baltimore-based workforce development organization that prepares city residents for careers in the construction trades. We serve adults seeking stable, long-term employment in industries such as construction, skilled trades, and infrastructure development.

Our participants are trained for jobs that frequently require reliable transportation and, in many cases, the ability to drive to job sites, operate company vehicles, or meet employer insurance requirements. For these reasons, holding a **full, unrestricted driver's license** is often a condition of employment.

Maryland's current requirement that all first-time drivers hold a provisional license for 18 months, regardless of age, has repeatedly delayed job placement for Project JumpStart participants. While individuals may be legally permitted to drive with a provisional license, many employers and insurers do not accept provisional licenses for employment purposes.

As a result, adults who have completed training and are otherwise job-ready are forced to wait months — sometimes more than a year — before they can access employment opportunities in their chosen field. This delay undermines workforce readiness, income stability, and employer hiring needs.

SB0856 / HB1338 addresses this barrier. Adults would still be required to complete all driver education, testing, and enforcement requirements. The bill simply removes an arbitrary waiting period that does not align with workforce realities and places Maryland out of step with most other states.

From a construction workforce perspective, this legislation would improve job placement outcomes, strengthen labor pipelines, and support economic mobility for Maryland residents.

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Project JumpStart respectfully urges a favorable report on SB0856 / HB1338.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jimmy Stewart", is positioned above the printed name.

Jimmy Stewart
Executive Director

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