



SB 302
Joint Committee on Workforce Development
Finance & Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Position: Support

Maryland AGC, the Maryland Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, provides professional education, business development, and advocacy for commercial construction companies and vendors. While the overwhelming majority of our members are open shop, Maryland AGC welcomes union contractors and is the bargaining agent with four of the basic trades. AGC of America is the nation's largest and oldest trade association for the construction industry. AGC of America represents more than 26,000 firms, all through a nationwide network of chapters. Maryland AGC supports SB 302, and respectfully urges the committee to give the bill a favorable report.

SB 302 would create a Joint Committee on Workforce Development to oversee the wide range of workforce readiness and development programs and activities already in place across a number of agencies. This would enable the General Assembly to ensure that the programs operated efficiently and effectively, and, equally important, in a coordinated manner. The current scheme results in bills dealing with workforce development being shared among the Economic Matters, Ways and Means, Finance, and Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committees. What coordination occurs takes place because of the efforts of committed legislators, but they would be even more effective if the structure supported coordinated efforts. This will become even more urgent with the adoption of the recommendations of the Kirwin Commission on career and technical training.

Businesses making decisions on expansion or relocation place a high premium on the availability of a skilled workforce and a government structure that is responsive to developing workforce skill needs. SB 302 would position Maryland to be a leader in progressive and aggressive workforce development. The construction industry has a serious workforce shortage now that will become more severe in coming years as the existing workforce ages. Maryland AGC would welcome the coordination and focus that a Joint Committee on Workforce Development would bring to the table.

Accordingly, Maryland AGC respectfully urges the Committee to give SB 302 a favorable report.

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