

May 27, 2022

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 926 – *Labor and Employment – Apprenticeships and Representation on the Apprenticeship and Training Council*.

Senate Bill 926 requires the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council (MATC or “the Council”), which is overseen by the Maryland Department of Labor (Labor), to specifically include representation on the Council by individuals who are Black and Latino. This bill is duplicative to existing law, which already requires MATC membership to “reflect the geographic, racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity of the State.” Representation currently includes nine males, three females, and four individuals of color (three African Americans and one Latino).

Additionally, the legislation established an Apprenticeship 2030 Commission. During my Administration, Registered Apprenticeship has not only crossed 10,000 apprentices for the first time in program history but also crossed 11,000 apprentices for the first time in program history. Since January 2015, Registered Apprenticeship has increased by 41.33% from 8,135 apprentices to a high of 11,498 in November, 2021. Apprenticeship has grown significantly and this legislation only seeks to create the duplicative and unnecessary Apprenticeship 2030 Commission which fails to recognize the expansion efforts and continued growth of Registered Apprenticeship during my administration. This bill tasks the Commission to propose recommendations on potentially unrealistic goals and it duplicates responsibilities assigned to the CTE Committee under the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

The Apprenticeship 2030 Commission would oversee three workgroups established by the 2022 Joint Chairmen’s Report: the Public Safety Apprenticeship Workgroup, the Healthcare Apprenticeship Workgroup, and the Transportation Apprenticeship Workgroup. The tasks assigned to these workgroups, as well as the Commission, may impact the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) as they work with the CTE Committee and implement the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. The potential for duplication and overlap of all of these groups and committees is so plausible that

the bill was even amended to say that “in the event of a conflict between a decision or policy of the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission and the CTE Committee related to youth apprenticeships, the CTE Committee’s decision or policy shall control.”

Further, and perhaps most egregious, as amended, Senate Bill 926 includes a fiscal carve out to only one of the State’s 13 Local Workforce Development Areas (Local Area): Prince George’s County. Typically, the Department allocates funds to all 13 jurisdictions based on a WIOA Title I formula. It is unusual, and unfair, to see resources directed to a single Local Area while the others are excluded. Additionally, funding Local Areas via line items of mandated appropriations sets a precedent whereby these entities will seek legislative champions in future sessions seeking similar arrangements that bypass Labor’s fiscal oversight.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 926.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor