



T 301.621.9545  
800.470.3013  
F 301.912.1665  
[www.iecchesapeake.com](http://www.iecchesapeake.com)

8751 Freestate Drive  
Suite 250  
Laurel, MD 20723

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To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support Senate Bill 795 – Youth Apprenticeship 2.0 Act of 2020

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IEC Chesapeake supports Senate Bill (SB) 795, which seeks to establish registered youth apprenticeship programs in Maryland public high schools, and requests a favorable report. The registered youth apprenticeship program would be open to high school juniors and seniors. The participating students would be required to complete 450 hours of work-based training as well as receive one year of classroom instruction related to an apprenticeship program.

IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship training program for electricians. IEC Chesapeake currently works with local school systems to train high school students in the electrical industry. SB795 would help to attract high school students to begin a career path in a skilled trade. The shortage of skilled tradespersons and the potential to establish a good career path with high earnings potential make this an opportune time to establish a registered youth apprenticeship program in Maryland as called for in SB795.

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. Our headquarters are located in Laurel, Maryland. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship program for training electricians. In addition, IEC Chesapeake promotes green economic growth by providing education and working with contractor members, industry partners, government policy makers and inspectors to increase the use of renewable energy.

Thanks for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 301-621-9545, extension 114 or at [gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com](mailto:gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com) or Kevin O’Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at [kevin@kokeeffelaw.com](mailto:kevin@kokeeffelaw.com).

