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To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Oppose Senate Bill 991 – Apprenticeship and Training Council–
Journeyworker–Apprentice Ratios–Electrical Craft or Trade

IEC Chesapeake opposes Senate Bill (SB) 991 and requests an unfavorable report. SB991 would require the establishment of a 1-1 journeyworker/apprentice ratio at work sites in the electrical craft. IEC Chesapeake strongly believes that the current 1-2 journeyworker/apprentice ratio is both safe and more effective in training apprentices in the electrical industry.

IEC Chesapeake believes that the mandating of the apprenticeship ratios in the electrical craft should remain under the jurisdiction of the Maryland Apprenticeship Training Council (MATC). MATC's members have the experience and expertise to best establish sensible apprenticeship to journeyworker ratios. MATC has established a 2-1 apprentice/journeyworker for the electrical industry. This ratio allows more young adults to enter the skilled electrical trade. There is a shortage of electricians. SB991 would limit the number of apprentices entering the electrical trade. Contractors and businesses need to increase the number of apprentice electricians, not create barriers to entry. A key component of IEC Chesapeake's mission is to train electricians. We have a rigorous apprenticeship training program. There is adequate supervision and a track record of safety.

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 or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at kevin@kokeeffelaw.com.

