



**Maryland Senate – Finance Committee**

**Chair: Delores G. Kelley**  
**Vice Chair: Brian J. Feldman**

**Senate Bill 991 – Apprenticeship and Training Council – Journeyworker -  
Apprentice ratios – Electrical Craft or Trade**

**Position: Support**

Electrical Workers

Insulators

Boilermakers

United Association

Roofers

Cement Masons

Teamsters

Laborers

Bricklayers

Ironworkers

Sheet Metal Workers

Elevator Constructors

Painters

Operating Engineers

Carpenters

The Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council supports SB 991. For clarification and to be consistent with Title 29 CFR part 29.5(b)(7), ratios are to be expressed as the number of apprentices to the number of journeyworkers, i.e., the format 1:1 would indicate “1 apprentice to 1 journeyworker.”

Based on the research provided by the OA-SAA workgroup on ratios, 97% of all responding states report a 1:1 (1 apprentice to 1 journeyworker) ratio as permissible for the first apprentice accepted in Registered Apprenticeship (RA) programs in most occupations. This benefits small businesses particularly, such as sole-proprietor contractors. The OA-SAA workgroup also found that 41% of those states responding required multiple additional journeyworkers prior to adding a second apprentice to the learning/job site.

Apprenticeship programs within the construction sector predominantly require a higher number of journeyworkers than apprentices on a learning/job site than in other sectors, because in the construction sector the work is considered hazardous and wage exploitation is a matter of great concern.

Currently, there is no prohibition on approving ratios that are different than those previously approved for the same occupations. However, it is rare in the construction trades apprenticeships that a ratio of more than one apprentice to one journeyworker (such as 2 apprentices to 1 journeyworker) is approved. In the construction trades, it would be more customary to require multiple journeyworkers for each apprentice on the learning/job site, i.e. 1:3.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data on hazardous occupations show that almost all construction occupations are in the high-hazard range. The most objective data on hazardous occupations is available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Almost all construction occupations are in the high-hazard range, which is defined by a fatality rate of greater than 5 FTEs per 100,000. Using this measure it is clear that most construction occupations are high hazard and in Electrical Construction the fatality rate is 10.1 FTE’s to 1000,000.

We ask for a favorable report by the committee.

Jeffry Guido – Director

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