



SB 357
Joint Committee on Workforce Development
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Position: Favorable

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, both open shop and union. AGC of America is the nation's largest and oldest trade association for the construction industry. AGC of America represents more than 27,000 firms, including over 6,500 of America's leading general contractors, and over 9,000 specialty-contracting firms, all through a nationwide network of chapters. Maryland AGC supports SB 357 and respectfully urges the bill be given a favorable report.

SB 357 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 has 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 357 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 357 a favorable report.

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