

Senate Bill 926 Hearing_Testimony March 16, 2022

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Testimony

of

William C. Taylor

Before the

Maryland General Assembly

Finance Committee

Senate Bill 926

Public Hearing

on the

Labor and Employment – Apprenticeship and

Training Council - Representation

March 16, 2022

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and members of the Finance Committee. My name is William C. Taylor of Fort Washington, Maryland. I am the past Chair of the Maryland State Apprenticeship Council, where I served for 14 years.

My purpose here today is in support of Senate Bill 926 that will include representatives by black, Latinos, females, and individuals with disabilities. In addition, Consultants to the Council shall include representation by black, Latinos, female, and individuals with disabilities. This will help ensure the Maryland Apprenticeship Council has diversity in gender and race in its sponsored programs.

We have developed a deep and abiding commitment to ensure there is balanced representation in employment opportunities. I am an advocate for opportunities that will support diversity in the workplace and allow all individuals to become productive and contributing members of our community.

I applaud the enhanced focus on Senate Bill 926 to include diversity on the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council. The Council should look like the people it serves and needs representation of all eligible workers. Additionally, a more diverse Council will help with recruiting and increase the diversity of

apprentices. I understand there is a shortage of skilled workers in a number of the trade professions.

A number of our communities have untrained workers who could fill those vacancies with the help of an apprenticeship. A more diverse Apprenticeship Council will help fill the needs of employers and unemployed workforce. The addition of females, Blacks, Latinos, the disabled, and other minorities on the Council will only improve workforce development and working conditions within the State.

I respectfully ask that you take the necessary action to ensure that this bill passes.

We cannot afford to lose sight of diversity at this critical juncture. I ask you to take the necessary action to ensure that the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council include representation of Black, Latinos, females, and persons with disabilities, also Consultants to the Council shall include representation by Black, Latinos, females, and individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

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Position: INFO

Senate Bill 926

Date: March 16, 2022
Committee: Senate Finance Committee
Bill Title: Labor and Employment - Apprenticeship and Training Council - Representation
Re: Letter of Information

Senate Bill 926 (SB 926) would require the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council (MATC), which is overseen by the Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor), to specifically include representation on the Council by individuals who are Black and Latino, to the extent practicable. This would not have a fiscal or operational impact on Labor, but it is duplicative language.

Section 11-403 of Labor and Employment Article, Ann. Code of Maryland, already requires membership diversity and the Department strives to meet this requirement. Specifically, it states:

(3) The membership of the Council shall, to the extent practicable, reflect the geographic, racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity of the State and shall include representation by individuals with disabilities. Consultants to the Council shall, to the extent practicable, reflect geographic, racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity of the State and shall include representation by individuals with disabilities.

(4) In advising the Governor, the Secretary shall give consideration to a balanced geographic representation from all of Maryland and a representative sampling and mix of Maryland industry.

For information on MATC, including the roster, a description of the council, and past meeting minutes, visit: <https://www.labor.maryland.gov/employment/appr/apprcouncil.shtml>.

Currently, in terms of diversity, the MATC composition is as follows:

- Males – 9
- Females – 3
- People of Color – 4 (3 African American and 1 Latino)
- White – 8

The Department respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information.