



**Maryland Joint
Legislative Committee**

The Voice of Merit Construction

March 28, 2023

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TO: ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE
FROM: ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS
RE: S.B. 104 – APPRENTICESHIP 2030 COMMISSION AND REPRESENTATION ON THE APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING COUNCIL
POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

On behalf of the Associated Builders and Contractors for Maryland, we appreciate the General Assembly's continued support of apprenticeship training.

As Maryland's largest providers of multi-craft apprenticeship training, we support SB 104. We are also pleased that the committee had the foresight to make sure it included minority representation on the Commission.

While we fully support all sectors of the industry having a seat at the table; we are astonished that the bill does not provide an opportunity for a merit shop contractor to participate on the Commission as a voting member. Merit Shop (or non-union) contractors make up 88% of the construction industry in the State of Maryland, and yet, four members will be designated by the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL–CIO. In addition, ABC is one of the most significant funders of the State Apprenticeship and Training Fund.

By giving the Merit Shop a seat at the table, you are also giving a voice to the employer in the growth and formation of apprenticeship. Employer participation is absolutely essential in crafting successful apprenticeship programs. The absence of any voice that represents the employer will mean that decisions could be made that fail to take into consideration how the employer can best support and foster the growth of the apprenticeship model.

With that in mind, we suggest the following amendments to S.B.104:

Page 4;
Line 4; Sec (11): STRIKE - a diverse range of

Page 4
Line 4; Sec (11): ADD – merit shop

The merit shop construction community develops construction trade professionals through innovative educational programming that provides the most highly-skilled workforce.

Again, as the largest construction employer and training organization in Maryland, we ask that the committee consider our request for a merit shop seat on the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission.

On behalf of the over 1,500 ABC members in Maryland, we look forward to the opportunity to work together to build a well-trained and sustainable workforce for an evolving and sustainable economy.

Marcus Jackson, Director
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