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## Senate Bill 104

Date: 3/28/2023  
Committee: House Economic Matters  
Bill Title: Labor and Employment - Apprenticeship 2030 Commission and Representation on the Apprenticeship and Training Council  
Re: **Letter of Support**

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The Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) supports SB 413 which both ensures diversity and inclusion on the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council (MATC) and establishes the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission.

The Department is aligned with the Commission's goal of dramatically expanding apprenticeship opportunities in our State by 2030 and is willing to provide support to meet The Blueprint for Maryland's Future's goal of 45% of high school graduates completing the High School Level of Registered Apprenticeship

The Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning, operating as the State Apprenticeship Agency, oversees Registered Apprenticeship in Maryland. Registered Apprenticeship is a proven model of job preparation that combines paid On-The-Job Learning with Related Instruction to progressively increase workers' skill levels and wages.

Registered Apprenticeship is business-driven and provides an effective way for employers to recruit, train, and retain highly skilled workers. It allows employers to develop and apply industry standards to training programs, thereby increasing productivity and the quality of the workforce. As an "earn and learn" strategy, Registered Apprenticeship offers job seekers immediate employment opportunities that provide sustainable wages and advancement along a career pathway. Graduates of Registered Apprenticeship programs receive nationally recognized, portable credentials, and their training may be applied towards further post-secondary education.

MDL's Apprenticeship and Training unit actively researches, funds, and implements opportunities to expand Registered Apprenticeship within the State, through both State and Federal grant programs. The Department is in support of the ambitious goals of the Commission and anticipates dedicating staff to support the Commission to provide clarity regarding current Registered Apprenticeship activities as well as future funding opportunities and areas for growth.

**MDL respectfully requests a Favorable Report from the Committee on SB 104.**