

**Senate Bill 104**

Date: February 2, 2023  
Committee: Senate Finance  
Bill Title: Labor and Employment - Apprenticeships and Representation on the  
Apprenticeship and Training Council

**Re: Letter of Support**

SB 104 establishes the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission, staffed by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) with the assistance of staff from other State agencies. The purpose of the commission is to examine and make recommendations to reduce skill shortages in high-demand occupations and provide affordable training for career pathways for young people in the public and private sectors.

MD Labor is home to the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL), which serves as the official State Apprenticeship Agency with Registered Apprenticeship oversight responsibilities in Maryland. The Division is proud of progress made in expanding Registered Apprenticeship since the Division took over the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Program in October of 2016; however, we recognize the need to continually innovate and diversify partnerships in order to be successful long-term and scale. For this reason, **MD Labor supports the establishment of the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission.**

The Apprenticeship 2030 Commission will provide the opportunity for an array of stakeholders to weigh in on the growth of Registered Apprenticeship. The Commission's efforts would foster deeper collaboration with critical external partners, such as the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee and the existing Apprenticeship Workgroups on Healthcare, Transportation, and Public Safety that were established via the Joint Chairmen's Report (JCR) during the 2022 legislative session. The Commission can further existing efforts to grow Registered Apprenticeship in a manner that aligns with the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Providing a venue for stakeholders to examine Apprenticeship related matters and convene on shared goals and expectations will help to ensure that the State is scaling Apprenticeship in a manner that meets the needs of a diverse array of jobseekers and businesses.

**The Department respectfully requests a favorable report from the Committee.**

Andrew Fulginiti  
Legislative Director