



EMPLOY PRINCE GEORGE'S  
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*Walter L. Simmons, President*

## House Bill 661

Committee: Judiciary

Date: February 21, 2023

**Position: Favorable with Amendments**

This testimony is offered on behalf of Employ Prince George's, the principal workforce development entity for Prince George's County that provides nationally recognized community and workforce development programming. At Employ Prince George's, we deliver a demand-driven workforce system that generates economic mobility for workers, delivers qualified workers to businesses, and drives economic success for every Maryland resident and business.

To facilitate the success of formerly incarcerated individuals, House Bill 661 (HB 661) establishes the Workgroup to Study Reentry, and directs the workgroup to "study the current role of State and local agencies in the reentry of formerly incarcerated individuals after completing their terms of confinement in state and local correctional facilities." Employ Prince George's supports HB 661, but respectfully requests an amendment to include a representative of a local workforce development board (LWDB) on the workgroup.

Including the Prince George's County Workforce Development Board, Maryland has thirteen (13) LWDBs that provide critical career and employment services to formerly incarcerated individuals. Through that work, LWDBs have gained valuable insight and first-hand experience that would greatly benefit the workgroup. **For this reason, Employ Prince George's respectfully requests the adoption of the amendment included below and a favorable report on HB 661.**

Amendment:

On page 1, line 20, after "designee." insert "**(8) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.**"