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To: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: **Support Senate Bill (SB) 40 - State Department of Education - Driver Education and Career and Technical Education - Funding (Driver Education and Career Education Act of 2024)**

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents nearly 200 electrical contractors who employ approximately 15,000 workers in the mid-Atlantic region. In addition, IEC Chesapeake has nearly 1,000 electrical apprentices. As one of the three largest apprenticeship programs in Maryland, IEC Chesapeake supports SB40 which provides funding for driver education and career and technical education.

One aspect of SB40 calls for providing high school students access to driver education. Securing a driver's license is essential for career readiness. It will expand opportunities for employment and training for many students in Prince George's County.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 1-301-621-9545, extension 114 or at gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at kevin@kokeeffelaw.com.

About Us

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Our headquarters are located in Laurel, Maryland. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship program for training electricians. In addition, IEC Chesapeake promotes green economic growth by providing education and working with contractor members, industry partners, government policy makers and inspectors to increase the use of renewable energy.

