

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building Trades Council - AFL-CIO
Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council - AFL-CIO
Central MD Labor Council - AFL-CIO
Del-Mar-Va Labor Council - AFL-CIO
Maryland State - D.C. - AFL-CIO
National Safety Council



C. SAMUEL CURRERI, President
DAVID W. SPRINGHAM, JR., Recording Secretary
JEROME T. MILLER, Financial Secretary
MICHAEL J. MCHALE, Business Manager

OFFICE:
2701 W. PATAPSCO AVENUE
SUITE 200

AFL-CIO-CLC

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

Phone: 410-247-5511
FAX: 410-536-4338

Written Testimony of

Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the House Economic Matters Committee On

HB 650 Labor and Employment – Apprenticeship Standards – Ratio of Apprentices
to Journeymen

Opposed

February 19, 2024

Chairman Wilson and Committee Members,

My name is Rico Albacarys and I am a member and employee of IBEW Local 24, writing to express my **opposition** to **HB 650**. Increasing the apprentice to journeyman ratio will compromise safety and training quality. One journeyman supervising three apprentices would strain guidance and oversight, risking accidents and errors.

The term "nontraditional" lacks specificity, potentially undermining apprenticeship integrity. A tailored approach considering each program's unique needs is essential, rather than a one-size-fits-all policy. The Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council (MATC) already allows ratio adjustments based on program needs, ensuring flexibility without compromising safety or quality. Implementing a blanket change, as proposed, would disregard MATC's careful considerations, risking apprentice welfare and Maryland's interests.

For these reasons I urge you to give **HB 650** an **unfavorable** report and instead support upholding apprenticeship standards, safety, and quality training. Maryland's skilled workforce depends on it.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys
Assistant Business Agent IBEW Local 24