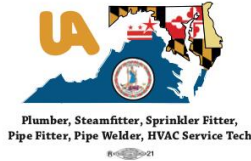


Mid Atlantic Pipe Trades Association



Maryland House of Delegates – Economic Matters Committee

TO: Delegate Derrick Davis, Chair; Delegate Eric Bromwell, Vice Chair; and Member of the House Economic Matters Committee.

FROM: Jason Ascher, Political Director – Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

Support HB 1125 – High Schools – Postsecondary Career and Technology Education Programs – Reporting on Student Acceptance Rates

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and its over seven thousand members from United Association Locals across the state, I ask that you SUPPORT HB 1125.

High Schools have always encouraged college enrollment and taken pride in what colleges its graduates got accepted too. If college was not in your future, you are just told to “get a job.” With no recognition within the education community for apprenticeship program acceptances school counselors had no incentive to encourage students to apply for them. For many graduating high school students, an apprenticeship program may be the answer they need. A union apprenticeship program gives you five years of classroom and on the job training at no cost to the student or the taxpayers, and when completed will lead to a good paying career with benefits such as health insurance and pension.

Introducing students to the availability of apprenticeship programs and helping them to find the one right for them should be a priority for high school counselors and a requirement to report students accepted to these programs will help encourage this. HB 1125 should provide an incentive for high schools to help direct graduating students to these programs.

For all of the reasons discussed, I ask that you SUPPORT HB 1125.

Sincerely,
Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association
7050 Oakland Mills Road, Suite 180
Columbia, MD 21046