

PROTECT MARYLAND PREVAILING WAGE: INSTRUCTIONS TO ATTEND HEARING AND PROVIDE TESTIMONY AGAINST SB 675 AND HB 997

The IBEW strongly encourages all local unions in Maryland to mobilize against SB 675 and HB 997 by:

- Attending the Maryland Senate Finance Committee's SB 675 hearing on **Wednesday, March 11th at 1:00 PM**
- Giving oral (preferred) or written testimony for/at the March 11th hearing (**Deadline for submission: March 9th**)

Witness sign-up is on **Monday, March 9th between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM**. If you are unable to attend, you can still make your voice heard by submitting written testimony.

Below are step-by-step instructions for how to attend the hearing (including logistics and IBEW T-shirt pick up information), how to sign up on MyMGA to give oral or written testimony, and sample language for oral and written testimonies you can use or personalize.

HOW TO ATTEND THE HEARING

HEARING INFORMATION

Bill: SB 675 (cross-filed with HB 997)

Committee: Senate Finance & House Procurement

Position: UNFAVORABLE

Date: March 11th, 2026, at 1:00 PM

Location: Finance Committee - East Miller Senate Office Building, Room 3, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

WHERE TO PARK/HOW TO ENTER THE BUILDING

Please contact your local union business manager to confirm whether your local union is coordinating a designated meeting time and place or offering carpooling.

If your local union has not coordinated a specific meeting time or transportation, please follow the general instructions below.

The East Miller Senate Office Building is located at 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. This building is directly across from the State House.

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Where to park:

- Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, 550 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD
- Gotts Court Garage, 25 Calvert Street, Annapolis, MD
- Street Parking (limited, not recommended)

How to enter the building:

- Enter through the main public entrance on Bladen Street
- Go through standard security screening (metal detector)
- After security, follow signs to the committee room (Room 3 for Finance)
- Seating is first-come, first-served for seating

Logistics Tips:

- Plan to arrive 30–45 minutes early
- Leave extra time for shuttle travel if parking at Navy Stadium
- Bring a photo ID (security may request)
- Large groups may need overflow seating in nearby rooms

If you're unable to attend, watch the hearing online via the MGA website or the appropriate Senate YouTube channel. These streams cover most committee hearings live.

You do NOT need to sign up through MyMGA if you are only attending the hearing. MyMGA is only required if you want to give oral or written testimony.

WHERE TO PICK UP YOUR IBEW T-SHIRTS

The IBEW will provide hi-viz rally shirts and encourages all attendees to demonstrate solidarity and increase IBEW visibility by wearing them at the event.

Please contact your local union business manager to confirm whether your local union has designated a time and location to pick up IBEW T-shirts for this event.

SPREAD THE WORD

Please share the following social media post with graphics to encourage fellow members to attend:

“Calling all Maryland IBEW members! Stand up for Maryland’s prevailing wage by opposing SB 675 and HB 997. Join the IBEW at the Maryland Senate Finance Committee hearing on SB 675 on Wednesday, March 11th at 1:00 PM. Sign up through MyMGA to give oral or written testimony and help protect IBEW’s wages, IBEW’s jurisdiction, and IBEW’s jobs.

<https://bit.ly/3OmVcqo>” [Insert SM [graphic 1](#) and/or [graphic 2](#)]

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HOW TO PROVIDE ORAL OR WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Witness sign-up is on Monday, March 9th between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM. This is the ONLY day you can sign up to testify. You must create a MyMGA account to submit oral or written testimony.

HOW TO SIGN UP ON MYMGA

All members submitting oral or written testimony must create a MyMGA account and register as a witness.

Step 1: Create a MyMGA Account

Go to: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite>

- Click the **“MyMGA”** button in the upper right corner
- Create a new account
- Confirm your registration

Step 2: Sign Up to Testify

Once logged in:

- Click **“Bill Tracking Lists”** on the left
- Select **“Witness Sign-Up”**
- Locate **SB 0675**
- Choose your position: **UNFAVORABLE**
- Select testimony option:
 - **Appear in Person** (strongly encouraged)
 - You may also submit written testimony

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SAMPLE ORAL TESTIMONY

Good afternoon, Chair and members of the committee,

My name is (Name), and I am a Maryland constituent and a proud member of [insert charter city] IBEW Local (X). I live in [insert town/city] and I am here to oppose SB 675 and HB 997.

These bills would remove investor-owned utility wages from Maryland's prevailing wage calculation for underground gas and electric distribution work. Those wages help establish the true market standard for the highly skilled, safety-sensitive work that IBEW members perform and compete for every day.

If SB 675 and HB 997 pass, the prevailing wage rate for underground utility work will fall. That will shrink IBEW market share, put downward pressure on union wages and benefit packages, and give utility employers more leverage to outsource work at lower standards.

Maryland's prevailing wage law exists to ensure that public infrastructure projects reflect real market wages and support skilled workers. Removing utility wage data distorts that calculation, weakens long-standing standards, and harms working families.

These bills do not improve safety, reliability, or workforce quality. They weaken standards and directly threaten IBEW wages, IBEW jurisdiction, and IBEW jobs.

I respectfully ask for an unfavorable report on SB 675 and HB 997.

Thank you for your time.

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SAMPLE WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Subject: Opposition to SB 675 and HB 997

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is (Name), and I am a Maryland constituent and a proud member of IBEW [insert charter city] Local (X). I live in [insert town/city]. I respectfully submit this testimony to oppose SB 675 and HB 997.

These bills would remove investor-owned utility wages from Maryland's prevailing wage calculation for underground gas and electric distribution work. Those wages help establish the true market standard for this highly skilled, safety-sensitive work that IBEW members perform and compete for every day. Excluding those wage data points would artificially lower the prevailing wage rate.

If SB 675 and HB 997 pass, prevailing wage rates for underground utility work will decrease, IBEW market share will shrink, and union wage and benefit packages will face downward pressure. Utility employers would also gain more leverage to outsource work at lower standards.

Maryland's prevailing wage law exists to ensure that public infrastructure projects reflect real market wages and support skilled workers. Removing utility wage data distorts this calculation and benefits low-road contractors, not Maryland workers. Strong prevailing wage standards protect middle-class jobs, apprenticeship programs, and safe high-quality energy infrastructure.

For these reasons, I respectfully request an unfavorable report on SB 675 and HB 997.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)
IBEW Local (X)