

CARPENTERS LOCAL UNION 197



UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS & JOINERS OF AMERICA
8500 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772 • Phone: 301-735-6660
801 W. Patapsco Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21230 • Phone: 410-355-5555
www.197-Carpenters.com

October 15, 2020

RE: Prevailing Wage Legislation, Ordinance #20-0269

Dear Council Members:

The prevailing wage determination, Ordinance #20-0269 for consideration will simplify the process that Baltimore city uses to index the prevailing wage rate determination for contracts and projects taking place in the City of Baltimore that are subject to prevailing wage.

Annually, the Maryland State Commissioner of Labor and Industry reviews and processes wage determination surveys for the state of Maryland, undertaking an extremely thorough and timely process. Year after year, included in the surveys are wages for the various job classifications that receive a prevailing wage determination. These are submitted from projects that took place in Baltimore City and the greater Baltimore area.

Annually, the City of Baltimore also undertakes a very similar process to identify the city's wage determination. Like the state, this process is both thorough and timely. This legislation would allow the city to save resources by indexing the prevailing wage established under the State law for State-financed construction work performed in the city of Baltimore.

This ordinance would also support the Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement by allowing the office to redirect the resources spent on collecting and processing wage surveys for other issues that they currently do not have the budget to carryout.

The City of Baltimore will also have a period to weigh in and raise any questions or concerns before the wage indexed by the state would become applicable to Baltimore City's prevailing wage. For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on this ordinance from members of the committee.

Sincerely,

John Barber
Business Representative