
MARYLAND BOARD OF PILOTS BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

DATE: October 10, 2025

TIME: 10:30 AM

LOCATION: 100 S. Charles Street
3rd Floor Conference Room
Tower 1, Baltimore, MD 21201

(Video Teleconferencing via: <https://meet.google.com/ebw-pykh-osg>)

(Phone Number: (US +1 321-558-2498 PIN: 429 006 324#))

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Derby, Chair
Captain Eric Nielsen
Captain Alison Marie Buckler
Captain Walter L. James III
Captain Ryan T. Merritt
Ben John Aunan
Michael R. Reagoso
Rashida I. Sims, Esq.

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Dove, Commissioner, Ex Officio

STAFF PRESENT: Zevi Thomas, Executive Director
Raquel Meyers, Assistant Executive Director
Matthew Venuti, Board Counsel
Noraida Lozano, Board Specialist
www.labor.maryland.gov

Called to Order

Michael Derby, Chair, called the Business Meeting of the Maryland Pilots Board to order at 10:30 a.m., virtually via <https://meet.google.com/ebw-pykh-osg>. Phone # (US) +1 321-558-2498 PIN: 429 006 324#.

Approval of Minutes

Prior to the approval of the meeting minutes, Chair Derby requested that each member of the Board, including staff, introduce themselves. The Board welcomed the new Board Members as follows:

Pilot Members: Captain Alison Marie Buckler
 Captain Walter L. James III
 Captain Ryan T. Merritt

Consumer Members: Ben John Aunan
 Rashida I. Sims, Esq.

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the Business Meeting held on June 6, 2025. **Motion (I)** was made by Capt. Nielsen, seconded by Mr. Reagoso, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the minutes without corrections.

INCIDENT COMMITTEE REPORT - None

PILOT COMPLEMENT REPORT

Captain Nielsen reported the following:

Arrivals – Up by 25%

Shifts – Up by 46%

Cargo – The data still show 2024 was the second-highest-ever total foreign cargo.

Retiring Pilots – There are three (3) retirements expected in 2025; two (2) pilots have already retired.

PIT - Due to issues with tariffs and USTR (US Trade Representative) fees, the Association recommended that the starting of two more PITs is delayed until at least July 1, 2026.

Motion (II) was made by Chair Derby, seconded by Ms. Sims, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the Pilot Complement reports.

WORK RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

Motion (III) was made by Capt. Nielsen, seconded by Mr. Reagoso and unanimously carried by the Board, to approve the Pilot Work Rule under 9.7e1 that codifies the long-term policy regarding personal days when on Harbor Duty, effective July 31, 2025.

PILOT-IN-TRAINING (PIT) SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT - (Reported under Executive Director's Report)

QUALIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Motion (IV) was made by Capt. Nielsen, seconded by Capt. Merritt, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the license upgrades listed below from 32' LLP to 36' LLP as recommended by the Qualifications Committee.

Name	From	To	Effective
Gary Bigham Jr.	32' LLP	36' LLP	Jan 1, 2026
Alexander Nielsen	32' LLP	36' LLP	Nov 1, 2025
Eric Schlegel	32' LLP	36' LLP	Jan 1, 2026
John Wasiloski	32' LLP	36' LLP	Nov 1, 2025

The following votes were taken and recorded.

Sims	Yes	Buckler	Yes
Reagoso	Yes	Neilsen	Yes
Auna	Yes	Derby	Yes
James	Yes	Dove	Absent
Merritt	Yes		

Motion (V) was made by Capt. Nielsen, seconded by Ms. Sims, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the license upgrade listed below from 40' LLP to ULP as recommended by the Qualifications Committee.

Name	From	To	Effective
Quentin Peabody	40' LLP	Unlimited	Oct 19, 2025

The following votes were taken and recorded.

Sims	Yes	Buckler	Yes
Reagoso	Yes	Neilsen	Yes

Auna	Yes	Derby	Yes
James	Yes	Dove	Absent
Merritt	Yes		

CORRESPONDENCE - None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Thomas reported that 31 PIT applications have been submitted as of October 10, 2025. The deadline for submission is December 1, 2025. He also mentioned that starting on August 1, 2025, all Boards and Commissions meetings within the Division of Occupational and Professional licensing are being recorded; however, meeting minutes will remain the published record of each meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Derby designated the following members to the corresponding Committees:

Qualification Committee:	Sims Buckler Merritt Nielsen
Incident Committee:	Aunan James
Work Rules Committee:	Derby Sims Nielsen
Pilot Selection Committee:	Buckler Merritt Reagoso Sims

OLD BUSINESS - None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thomas interjected on the meeting schedule for 2026. The January 2, 2025, meeting has been updated to January 9, 2026, as requested by Board members. The next meetings are scheduled for March 6, June 5, and October 2, 2026.

There being no further business to discuss, **Motion (VI)** was made by Capt. Nielsen, seconded by Ms. Sims, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Friday, March 6, 2026, at 10:30 am.**

(Signature on File)

01/09/2026

Michael Derby, Chair

Date