
By: Delegate Snodgrass

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 1996

Assigned to: Economic Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 20, 1996

CHAPTER ____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Home Improvement Permits**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~prohibiting a county, municipal corporation, or other issuing~~
4 ~~authority from issuing a home improvement permit unless the permit application~~
5 ~~includes certain disclosures and a certain statement;~~ prohibiting a county, municipal
6 corporation, ~~or other local issuing authority~~ from issuing a home improvement
7 permit ~~for home improvement to be performed by a contractor unless the permit~~
8 ~~application includes the license number of a licensed contractor, a certain notice,~~
9 ~~and a certain signed statement;~~ prohibiting a county, municipal corporation, or
10 other local issuing authority from issuing a permit for home improvement to be
11 performed by a property owner unless the permit application contains a certain
12 signed statement; allowing the required notices and statements to be included in the
13 permit application or attached to the permit application under certain
14 circumstances; authorizing a municipal corporation to use all of its existing stock of
15 home improvement permit application forms before using forms that include spaces
16 for the license numbers required under this Act; and generally relating to home
17 improvement permits.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

19 Article - Business Regulation

20 Section 8-504

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (1992 Volume and 1995 Supplement)

23 ~~BY adding to~~

24 ~~Article - Business Regulation~~

25 ~~Section 8-504~~

26 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

2

1 ~~(1992 Volume and 1995 Supplement)~~

2 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
3 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

4 **Article - Business Regulation**

5 ~~§8-504.~~

6 Except for a permit for a home improvement to be performed by a property owner,
7 the building and permits department of a county OR A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION may
8 not issue a permit for a home improvement unless the permit includes the license number
9 of a licensed contractor.}

10 ~~8-504.~~

11 ~~(A) THE BUILDING AND PERMITS DEPARTMENT OF A COUNTY, MUNICIPAL~~
12 ~~CORPORATION, OR OTHER LOCAL ISSUING AUTHORITY MAY NOT ISSUE ANY~~
13 ~~PERMIT FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT UNLESS THE PERMIT APPLICATION INCLUDES A~~
14 ~~NOTICE THAT:~~

15 ~~(1) PROVIDES A CURRENT STATUTORY DEFINITION OF "HOME~~
16 ~~IMPROVEMENT";~~

17 ~~(2) INCLUDES THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE COMMISSION; AND~~

18 ~~(3) CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:~~

19 ~~"EACH CONTRACTOR AND EACH SUBCONTRACTOR MUST BE LICENSED BY THE~~
20 ~~MARYLAND HOME IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION. ANY PERSON MAY ASK THE~~
21 ~~MARYLAND HOME IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION ABOUT A CONTRACTOR OR~~
22 ~~SUBCONTRACTOR."~~

23 ~~(B) THE BUILDING AND PERMITS DEPARTMENT OF A COUNTY, MUNICIPAL~~
24 ~~CORPORATION, OR OTHER LOCAL ISSUING AUTHORITY MAY NOT ISSUE A PERMIT~~
25 ~~FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT TO BE PERFORMED BY A PROPERTY OWNER UNLESS THE~~
26 ~~APPLICATION INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT, SIGNED BY THE PROPERTY~~
27 ~~OWNER:~~

28 ~~"I AM AN OWNER OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS PERMIT APPLICATION.~~
29 ~~I WILL PERSONALLY PERFORM THE WORK DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT AT THE~~
30 ~~PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT. I UNDERSTAND THAT I MAY PERSONALLY~~
31 ~~COMPLETE IMPROVEMENTS ON MY HOME WITHOUT BEING A LICENSED HOME~~
32 ~~IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS ILLEGAL FOR AN~~
33 ~~INDIVIDUAL TO ACT AS A HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR OR~~
34 ~~SUBCONTRACTOR IN MARYLAND WITHOUT BEING LICENSED AND THAT NO CLAIMS~~
35 ~~MAY BE MADE AGAINST THE HOME IMPROVEMENT GUARANTEE FUND FOR~~
36 ~~DAMAGES OR LOSSES SUFFERED BY A PROPERTY OWNER WHO HIRES AN~~
37 ~~UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR."~~

38 ~~(C) THE BUILDING AND PERMITS DEPARTMENT OF A COUNTY, MUNICIPAL~~
39 ~~CORPORATION, OR OTHER LOCAL ISSUING AUTHORITY MAY NOT ISSUE A PERMIT~~

3

1 ~~FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT TO BE PERFORMED BY A HOME IMPROVEMENT~~
2 ~~CONTRACTOR UNLESS:~~

3 ~~(1) THE PERMIT INCLUDES THE LICENSE NUMBER OF A LICENSED~~
4 ~~CONTRACTOR; AND~~

5 ~~(2) THE APPLICATION FOR THE PERMIT CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING~~
6 ~~STATEMENT, SIGNED BY THE PROPERTY OWNER:~~

7 ~~"I AM AN OWNER OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS PERMIT APPLICATION.~~
8 ~~I UNDERSTAND THAT EACH CONTRACTOR AND SUBCONTRACTOR MUST BE~~
9 ~~LICENSED BY THE HOME IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION AND THAT ANYONE MAY ASK~~
10 ~~THE COMMISSION ABOUT A CONTRACTOR OR A SUBCONTRACTOR. I FURTHER~~
11 ~~UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS ILLEGAL FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO ACT AS A HOME~~
12 ~~IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR IN MARYLAND WITHOUT BEING~~
13 ~~LICENSED AND THAT NO CLAIMS MAY BE MADE AGAINST THE HOME IMPROVEMENT~~
14 ~~GUARANTEE FUND FOR DAMAGES OR LOSSES SUFFERED BY A PROPERTY OWNER~~
15 ~~WHO HIRES AN UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR.~~

16 ~~I HAVE RECEIVED FROM MY CONTRACTOR THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE~~
17 ~~MARYLAND HOME IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION."~~

18 ~~(D) A NOTICE OR STATEMENT REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE~~
19 ~~CONTAINED IN A PERMIT APPLICATION OR ATTACHED TO A PERMIT APPLICATION.~~

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the building and permits
21 department of any municipal corporation may use all of its home improvement permit
22 application forms that the building and permits department has in stock as of October 1,
23 1996 before using home improvement permit application forms that include spaces for the
24 license numbers required under this Act.

25 ~~SECTION 2- 3.~~ AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 1996.