CHAPTER 537

(House Bill 1309)

AN ACT concerning

Business Regulation – Mold Remediation Services – Licensing

FOR the purpose of requiring certain persons to be licensed by the Maryland Home Improvement Commission to provide mold remediation services; requiring the Secretary Commission to adopt regulations for the licensure and regulation of mold remediation services; providing that this Act does not limit the rights of certain individuals to engage in certain mold remediation; establishing the purpose of this Act; providing for the powers and duties of the Commission in licensing and regulating mold remediation service providers; requiring all fees collected by the Commission under this Act to be paid into the General Fund; requiring certain licensees to maintain certain general liability insurance; providing that licensees are not required to pay certain assessments; providing for the qualifications and applicant requirements of mold remediation supervisors and technicians; establishing certain application procedures; authorizing the issuance and renewal of certain licenses; providing for the expiration and renewal of certain licenses; authorizing the Secretary Commission to deny a license to an applicant, refuse to renew a license, reprimand a licensee, suspend or revoke a license, or impose certain penalties under certain circumstances; establishing certain hearing and appeal procedures for mold remediation technicians and supervisors; prohibiting a licensee from employing certain individuals or from engaging in certain practices; providing for certain criminal and civil penalties; requiring certain persons performing companies or firms providing mold remediation services to be licensed on or before a certain date; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the licensure and regulation of mold remediation services.

BY renumbering
Article – State Government
Section 8–403(b)(39) through (69), respectively
to be Section 8–403(b)(40) through (b)(70), respectively
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Business Regulation
Section 8–701 through 8–718 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 7. Mold Remediation Services”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)
BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Business Regulation
Section 8–701 and 8–702 to be under the amended subtitle “Subtitle 8. Short Title; Termination of Title”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 8–403(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – State Government
Section 8–403(b)(39)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 8–403(b)(39) through (69), respectively, of Article – State Government of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 8–403(b)(40) through (70), respectively.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Business Regulation

SUBTITLE 7. MOLD REMEDIATION SERVICES.

8–701.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “ACCRREDITATION BODY” MEANS THE AMERICAN INDOOR AIR QUALITY COUNCIL OR ANY OTHER NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACCREDITATION BODY THAT IS RECOGNIZED BY THE COMMISSION AND THAT OPERATES INDEPENDENTLY OF TRAINING ORGANIZATIONS OR INDUSTRY TRADE ASSOCIATIONS.

(C) “COMMISSION” MEANS THE MARYLAND HOME IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION.
(D) “License” means a license issued by the Commission to perform or assist in performing a company or firm to provide mold remediation services and includes:

(1) A mold remediation technician license; and

(2) A mold remediation supervisor license.

(E) “Mold” means an organism of the class fungi that causes disintegration of organic matter and produces spores, as well as any spores, hyphae, and mycotoxins that are produced by mold.

(F) “Mold assessment” means:

(1) An inspection, investigation, or survey of a dwelling or other structure to provide information to the owner regarding the presence, identification, or evaluation of mold;

(2) The development of a mold management plan; or

(3) The collection or analysis of a mold sample.

(G) “Mold remediation” means the removal, cleaning, sanitizing, demolition, or other treatment of mold or mold–contaminated matter, live or dead, that was not intended to be grown at that location.

8–702.

(A) This subtitle does not apply to:

(1) The performance of mold remediation on nonresidential property;

(2) The performance of mold remediation in an area less than 10 square feet;

(3) The performance of mold assessments; or

(4) Routine cleaning that is not performed for the purpose of mold remediation.

(B) This subtitle does not limit the right of:
(1) AN INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNER WHO PERFORMS MOLD REMEDIATION ON THE INDIVIDUAL’S PROPERTY;

(2) AN EMPLOYEE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, THE STATE GOVERNMENT, A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OR AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY WHILE THAT EMPLOYEE IS PERFORMING MOLD REMEDIATION SERVICES ON OR WITHIN BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES OWNED OR SOLELY OCCUPIED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, THE STATE GOVERNMENT, A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OR AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY;

(3) AN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST, AS DEFINED BY THE AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION, A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER, OR AN ENVIRONMENTAL SANITARIAN WHO ENGAGES IN MOLD REMEDIATION SERVICES; OR

(4) AN INDIVIDUAL REGULARLY EMPLOYED BY THE OWNER OF PROPERTY, OR THE OWNER’S AGENT, TO ENGAGE IN MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR WORK.

8–703.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBTITLE IS TO ESTABLISH A LICENSING PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO PERFORM OR ASSIST IN PERFORMING COMPANIES AND FIRMS THAT PROVIDE MOLD REMEDIATION SERVICES TO:

(1) PROTECT THE PUBLIC;

(2) IMPROVE INDOOR AIR QUALITY; AND

(3) PROMOTE HIGH PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.

8–704.

IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER POWERS AND DUTIES SET FORTH ELSEWHERE, THE COMMISSION SHALL:

(1) ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE;

(2) ISSUE LICENSES;

(3) KEEP A LIST OF ALL LICENSEES; AND

(4) KEEP A RECORD OF ITS PROCEEDINGS.
8–705.  

(A) Subject to subsections (b) and (c) subsection (b) of this section, the Commission may set reasonable fees for its services.

(B) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, revenues generated by the Commission shall be at least equal to expenses incurred by the Commission.

(C) The Commission shall pay all money collected under this subtitle into the General Fund of the State.

8–706.  

(A) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a person licensed under this subtitle may not contract or solicit to engage in the business of providing mold remediation services unless the work of the licensee is covered by general liability insurance in the amount of at least $1,000,000.

(2) A licensee shall give the Commission notice of the cancellation of insurance at least 10 days before the effective date of the cancellation.

(B) A licensed mold remediation technician or supervisor need not obtain separate insurance while performing or assisting in performing mold remediation services under the control and supervision of a licensed firm. A person licensed to provide mold remediation services under this subtitle is not required to pay assessments to the Fund under Subtitle 4 of this title.

8–707.  

(A) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, an individual, a company or firm shall be licensed by the Commission before the individual performs or assists in performing mold remediation services in the State.

(B) (1) To qualify for a license, an applicant shall meet the requirements of this section.
(2) If the applicant is a company or firm, the company or firm shall appoint a company or firm member as a representative member to make the application on behalf of the company or firm.

(C) An applicant for a mold remediation supervisor license shall:

(1) be at least 18 years old;
(2) be of good moral character; and
(3) be actively certified by an accreditation body as a microbial remediation supervisor.

(D) An applicant for a mold remediation technician license shall:

(1) be at least 18 years old;
(2) be of good moral character; and
(3) be actively certified by an accreditation body as a microbial remediator.

(E) An applicant for a mold remediation firm license shall:

(1) be at least 18 years old;
(2) be of good moral character; and
(3) be actively certified by an accreditation body as a microbial remediation supervisor.

8–708.

(A) An applicant for a license shall:

(1) submit an application to the Commission in the form that the Commission provides;
(2) pay a nonrefundable application fee established through regulation;
(3) Submit proof of certification by an accreditation body as a mold remediation supervisor or remediator that each of its employees who provides mold remediation services is certified by an accreditation body as a microbial remediation supervisor or microbial remediation technician, whichever is applicable;

(4) If applying for a firm license, submit proof of general liability insurance as required by § 8–706 of this subtitle; and

(5) Provide any other information the Commission may require.

(b) The application form provided by the Commission shall require an applicant to provide:

(1) The applicant's name;

(2) The applicant's business address, telephone number, and, if applicable, electronic mail address;

(3) The applicant's Social Security number; and

(4) Any other information that the Commission deems necessary.

8–709.

(A) The Commission may grant a waiver to the requirement for a license only if the applicant:

(1) Pays the appropriate application fee; and

(2) Provides adequate evidence that the applicant:

   (I) Meets the qualifications otherwise required by this subtitle; and

   (II) Has an active license from another state with licensing requirements that are at least equivalent to the licensing requirements of this state.
(B) THE COMMISSION WILL ISSUE THE LICENSE TO EACH APPLICANT WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBTITLE AND THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER IT.

8–710.

(A) UNLESS THE LICENSE IS RENEWED AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, A LICENSE EXPIRES 2 YEARS AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUANCE.

(B) BEFORE THE LICENSE EXPIRES, THE LICENSEE MAY RENEW IT FOR AN ADDITIONAL 2–YEAR TERM, IF THE LICENSEE:

(1) OTHERWISE IS ENTITLED TO BE GRANTED A LICENSE;

(2) PAYS TO THE COMMISSION A RENEWAL FEE ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION; AND

(3) SUBMITS:

(I) PROOF OF INSURANCE, IF APPLICABLE;

(II) A RENEWAL APPLICATION IN THE FORM THAT THE COMMISSION PROVIDES; AND

(III) PROOF OF THE LICENSEE’S ACTIVE CERTIFICATION OR RECERTIFICATION AS A MICROBIAL REMEDIATION SUPERVISOR OR MICROBIAL REMEDIATOR THAT EACH OF THE LICENSEE’S CURRENT EMPLOYEES WHO PROVIDES MOLD REMEDIATION SERVICES HOLDS AN ACTIVE CERTIFICATION FROM AN ACCREDITATION BODY AS A MICROBIAL REMEDIATION SUPERVISOR OR MICROBIAL REMEDIATION TECHNICIAN.

(C) THE COMMISSION SHALL RENEW THE LICENSE OF EACH LICENSEE WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

(D) (1) IF APPLICATION FOR RESTORATION IS MADE WITHIN 90 DAYS OF EXPIRATION OF A LICENSE, THE LICENSE MAY BE RESTORED ONLY ON PAYMENT OF A RENEWAL FEE.

(2) IF APPLICATION FOR RESTORATION IS NOT MADE WITHIN THE 90–DAY PERIOD, THE COMMISSION MAY REQUIRE COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROCESS FOR INITIAL APPLICATIONS AS IF THE APPLICANT HAD NEVER BEEN LICENSED.
8–711.

(A) The subject to the hearing provisions of § 8–712 of this subtitle, the commission may deny a license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, or suspend or revoke a license after a public hearing conducted in accordance with the provisions of § 8–712 of this title, if the commission finds that the individual applicant or licensee:

(1) Obtained a license by false or fraudulent representation;

(2) Transferred the authority granted by the license to another person;

(3) Willfully or deliberately disregarded and violated any regulations established by the commission under this subtitle;

(4) Willfully or deliberately disregarded and violated laws of the state or of any municipality, city, or county of the state;

(5) Is convicted of:

(I) A felony; or

(II) A misdemeanor that is directly related to the fitness and qualification of the applicant or licensee to provide mold remediation services;

(6) Aided or abetted a person to evade a provision of this subtitle by allowing a license to be used by an unlicensed person, firm, or corporation;

(7) Performed work under a mold remediation services contract or project that is inadequate or incomplete;

(8) Made any material misrepresentation in the procurement of a mold remediation services contract or project; or

(9) Violates this subtitle.
(B) SUBJECT TO THE HEARING PROVISIONS OF § 8–712 OF THIS TITLE SUBTITLE, THE COMMISSION MAY REPRIMAND A LICENSEE OR SUSPEND OR REVOKE A LICENSE OF A LICENSEE FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS TITLE BY AN AGENT, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYEE, MANAGER, OFFICER, PARTNER, OR SALESPERSON OF THE LICENSEE, UNLESS THE COMMISSION FINDS THAT THE LICENSEE:

(1) HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE WRONGFUL CONDUCT; OR

(2) COULD NOT PREVENT THE VIOLATION.

(C) INSTEAD OF OR IN ADDITION TO REPRIMANDING A LICENSEE OR SUSPENDING OR REVOKING A LICENSE, THE COMMISSION MAY IMPOSE A CIVIL PENALTY UNDER § 8–620 OF THIS TITLE.

(D) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FACTS IN THE GRANTING, DENIAL, RENEWAL, SUSPENSION, OR REVOCATION OF A LICENSE OR THE REPRIMAND OF A LICENSEE WHEN AN APPLICANT OR LICENSEE IS CONVICTED OF A FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR:

(1) THE NATURE OF THE CRIME;

(2) THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE CRIME TO THE ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED BY THE LICENSE;

(3) WITH RESPECT TO A FELONY, THE RELEVANCE OF THE CONVICTION TO THE FITNESS AND QUALIFICATION OF THE APPLICANT OR LICENSEE TO PERFORM PROVIDE MOLD REMEDIATION SERVICES;

(4) THE LENGTH OF TIME SINCE THE CONVICTION; AND

(5) THE BEHAVIOR AND ACTIVITIES OF THE APPLICANT OR LICENSEE BEFORE AND AFTER THE CONVICTION.

(E) THE COMMISSION SHALL PAY ANY PENALTY COLLECTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION INTO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE.

8–712.

(A) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, BEFORE THE COMMISSION TAKES ANY FINAL ACTION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, THE COMMISSION SHALL GIVE THE INDIVIDUAL
PERSON AGAINST WHOM THE ACTION IS CONTEMPLATED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING BEFORE THE COMMISSION.

(B) THE COMMISSION SHALL GIVE NOTICE AND HOLD THE HEARING IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(C) THE COMMISSION MAY ADMINISTER OATHS IN CONNECTION WITH ANY PROCEEDING UNDER THIS SECTION.

(D) IF, AFTER DUE NOTICE, THE INDIVIDUAL PERSON AGAINST WHOM THE ACTION IS CONTEMPLATED FAILS OR REFUSES TO APPEAR, NEVERTHELESS THE COMMISSION MAY HEAR AND DETERMINE THE MATTER.

8–713.

ANY PERSON AGGRIEVED BY A FINAL DECISION OF THE COMMISSION MAY TAKE AN APPEAL AS ALLOWED IN §§ 10–222 AND 10–223 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

8–714.

(A) EACH LICENSED MOLD REMEDIATION SUPERVISOR OR TECHNICIAN LICENSEE SHALL DISPLAY:

(1) THE LICENSE AND THE LICENSE NUMBER CONSPICUOUSLY IN THE PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS OF THE LICENSEE; AND

(2) THE LICENSE NUMBER OF THE LICENSEE ON EACH VEHICLE USED ON THE JOB FOR PROVIDING MOLD REMEDIATION SERVICES.

(B) EACH LICENSEE SHALL GIVE THE COMMISSION NOTICE OF ANY CHANGE OF NAME, ADDRESS, OR EMPLOYMENT FROM THAT WHICH APPEARS ON THE CURRENT LICENSE, AT LEAST 10 WORKING DAYS BEFORE THE CHANGE IS TO TAKE EFFECT.

8–715.

(A) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBTITLE, A HOLDER OF A MOLD REMEDIATION LICENSE MAY NOT EMPLOY AN INDIVIDUAL TO PERFORM OR ASSIST IN PERFORMING PERSON MAY NOT PROVIDE MOLD REMEDIATION SERVICES UNLESS THE INDIVIDUAL PERSON IS LICENSED BY THE COMMISSION.
(B) A LICENSED MOLD REMEDIATION TECHNICIAN OR LICENSED MOLD REMEDIATION SUPERVISOR LICENSEE MAY NOT:

(1) PERFORM PROVIDE OR OFFER TO PERFORM PROVIDE ANY MOLD REMEDIATION TO A STRUCTURE ON WHICH THE FIRM THAT EMPLOYS THE LICENSED TECHNICIAN OR LICENSED SUPERVISOR OR COMPANY OR ITS EMPLOYEES HAS PROVIDED A MOLD ASSESSMENT WITHIN THE LAST 12 MONTHS; OR

(2) PAY ANY COMPENSATION, INDUCEMENT, OR REWARD TO A MOLD ASSESSOR OR A MOLD ASSESSOR’S FIRM IN ORDER TO GENERATE THE REFERRAL OF ANY BUSINESS TO THE LICENSED TECHNICIAN, LICENSED SUPERVISOR, OR FIRM THAT EMPLOYS THE LICENSED TECHNICIAN OR LICENSED SUPERVISOR LICENSEE’S FIRM OR COMPANY OR ITS EMPLOYEES.

8–716.

UNLESS LICENSED TO PROVIDE MOLD REMEDIATION SERVICES UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, A PERSON MAY NOT REPRESENT TO THE PUBLIC BY USE OF THE TITLES “MOLD REMEDIATION LICENSE HOLDER”, “REGISTERED MOLD REMEDIATION CONTRACTOR”, BY OTHER TITLE, OR BY DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES, METHODS, OR PROCEDURES, OR OTHERWISE, THAT THE PERSON IS LICENSED TO PERFORM OR TO ASSIST IN PERFORMING PROVIDE MOLD REMEDIATION SERVICES.

8–717.

THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE CITED AS THE “MARYLAND MOLD REMEDIATION SERVICES ACT”.

8–718.

SUBJECT TO THE EVALUATION AND REESTABLISHMENT PROVISIONS OF THE MARYLAND PROGRAM EVALUATION ACT, THIS SUBTITLE AND ALL REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL TERMINATE AND BE OF NO EFFECT AFTER JULY 1, 2013 2015 **2016.**

Subtitle [7.] 8. Short Title; Termination of Title.

[8–701.] 8–801.

This title is the Maryland Home Improvement Law.
Subject to the evaluation and reestablishment provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act, this title and all regulations adopted under this title shall terminate on October 1, 2012.

Article – State Government

8–403.

(a) On or before December 15 of the 2nd year before the evaluation date of a governmental activity or unit, the Legislative Policy Committee, based on a preliminary evaluation, may waive as unnecessary the evaluation required under this section.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (a) of this section, on or before the evaluation date for the following governmental activities or units, an evaluation shall be made of the following governmental activities or units and the statutes and regulations that relate to the governmental activities or units:

(39) MOLD REMEDIATION SERVICES, LICENSING AND REGULATION OF (§ 8–701 OF THE BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE: JULY 1, 2012 2015);

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before January June 1, 2010, a person performing company or firm providing mold remediation services shall be licensed by the Maryland Home Improvement Commission, subject to the qualification and application requirements of this Act.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2008.