



PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION NO. 5

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Terriea "T" Smalls, Business Manager and Financial Secretary Treasurer UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5

In Support of House Bill 92 / Senate Bill 263

Before the Maryland General Assembly House Economic Matters Committee and Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committees

Chairs Wilson and Feldman, and Honorary Members of the Committees,

On behalf of UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5, representing over 1,900 members and 400 apprentices and their families, I write today in strong support of House Bill 92 and Senate Bill 263. This legislation is a critical step in providing much-needed flexibility for licensed Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVACR) contractors to restore their licenses after expiration.

As union workers, we understand the importance of maintaining professional credentials and compliance with licensing regulations. However, the current 90-day reinstatement period poses significant challenges for many professionals who may face unforeseen circumstances, such as medical emergencies, family obligations, or financial hardship. By extending the reinstatement period to four years, this bill ensures that experienced and skilled workers have a fair opportunity to re-enter the workforce without the burden of starting from scratch.

UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5 takes pride in our commitment to training and developing highly skilled tradespeople who contribute to Maryland's infrastructure and economy. Our members and apprentices work tirelessly to provide safe and efficient HVACR services to homes, businesses, and public institutions. The proposed legislation aligns with our mission by supporting a stable and qualified workforce, which is essential to the well-being of our communities.

Additionally, extending the reinstatement period will alleviate administrative burdens on the State Board of HVACR Contractors by reducing the volume of initial license applications and examination requirements. This will result in greater efficiency for both the board and applicants.

In conclusion, House Bill 92 and Senate Bill 263 present a common-sense solution to ensure continuity in the HVACR industry while providing workers with the necessary flexibility to maintain their livelihoods. I respectfully urge the committees to issue a favorable report on this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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