

## **Senate .pdf**

Uploaded by: Christina Sears

Position: FAV

**Comments of Christina Sears**  
**as prepared for the**  
**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Hearing**  
**March 26, 2025**  
**in SUPPORT of HB1162 -- Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, or Refrigeration Contractors -**  
**Equipment Sales**

Good afternoon Chair Feldman and members of the Committee; my name is Christina Sears, and I am a homeowner in Harford County, where I live with my six children. I work as a server in a restaurant, I'm not a contractor, but I have been impacted personally by unlicensed contractors conducting a bad furnace installation, and I think it is important to share my story.

In JANUARY, I paid a contractor to replace my furnace; I thought I was getting a good deal for the price of \$6,500. However, after I paid him, he never completed the installation, and I later found out the equipment was installed improperly as well as not being the right size for my home.

I tried to contact him to fix the problem, but I stopped getting any responses. In speaking with other contractors, I later learned he installed the wrong equipment that was not suited for my single family home and now I have to pay another contractor even more to install a new furnace to fix the problem.

Someone like that, without a license, should not be able to buy a furnace and install it in my home. Most people don't know how important it is to check the contractor's license before paying, and they trust contractors to do the right thing. I did learn the information about how to find out proper licensing info to make sure this does not happen to me again and I hope this can help so many other people as well.

I support the bill HB1162 because I think it can help prevent unlicensed contractors from getting access to equipment and taking advantage of people. Thank you for the chance to share my story.

## **Senate 2!!..pdf**

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**March 26, 2025**

**in SUPPORT of HB1162 -- Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, or Refrigeration Contractors - Equipment Sales**

Good afternoon Chair Feldman and members of the Committee; my name is Christina Sears, and I am a homeowner in Harford County, where I live with my six children. I work as a server in a restaurant, I'm not a contractor, but I have been impacted personally by unlicensed contractors conducting a bad furnace installation, and I think it is important to share my story.

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I tried to contact him to fix the problem, but I stopped getting any responses. In speaking with other contractors, I later learned he installed the wrong equipment that was not suited for my single family home and now I have to pay another contractor even more to install a new furnace to fix the problem. After reaching out to the county permit office and seeing that there was nothing they could or would do for these unlicensed contractors other than maybe sending a letter to their address I knew that more just had to be done to try to address the situation.

Someone like that, without a license, should not be able to buy a furnace and install it in my home. Most people don't know how important it is to check the contractor's license before paying, and they trust contractors to do the right thing. I did learn the information about how to find out proper licensing info to make sure this does not happen to me again and I hope this can help so many other people as well.

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# **Stein Testimony Senate HB 1162.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dana Stein

Position: FAV

DANA M. STEIN  
*Legislative District 11B*  
Baltimore County

—  
SPEAKER PRO TEM  
—

Environment and Transportation  
Committee

*Subcommittees*

Chair, Environment

Natural Resources,  
Agriculture and Open Space



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*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Delegate Stein Testimony in Support of  
HB1162: Heating, Ventilation, Air–Conditioning, or Refrigeration Contractors –  
Equipment Sales**

Maryland’s current HVACR license requirements provide important consumer protections, ensuring consumers receive a safe, efficient, and high-quality installation of one of the most expensive, and necessary, appliances in their homes—their heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning equipment. Yet, there have been dozens of consumer complaints reported annually regarding HVACR services from unlicensed contractors—despite current laws prohibiting unlicensed contractors from selling to homeowners.

This legislation would establish a requirement that HVACR equipment distributors only sell equipment to individuals legally authorized to install the equipment. By requiring equipment sellers to follow license requirements, this legislation will significantly improve compliance and will benefit Maryland consumers.

I appreciate the engagement from stakeholders on the bill and the version you have before you includes amendments from the House that help address and incorporate the feedback I’ve received. Based on additional feedback from members of the General Assembly—including this committee—and the HVACR License Board, I have amended the bill to strengthen compliance by making violations a misdemeanor, consistent with existing penalties for license infractions. Based on feedback from the business community, the adopted amendments also remove annual reporting requirements, which some stakeholders feared would place a burden on small businesses.

The bill retains the exceptions in existing license requirements that allow a building owner to install equipment on their own property, in addition to utility and government employees and holders of other professional licenses. This legislation also does not apply to small plug-in appliances like window air conditioners and space heaters, and exempts construction material suppliers, such as retail hardware stores, that are not set up to verify license information at the sales register.

Finally, the bill includes a required disclosure to make sure that building owners and contractors purchasing the equipment are aware of the license requirements.

Key outcomes of this legislation will include:

- 1. Improved Safety:** HVAC licenses require years of experience and training for good reason. Unlicensed installers lack the experience to safely install electric and combustion HVAC equipment, putting homeowners and their families at risk.

2. **Insurance Compliance:** Unlicensed contractors lack business insurance, putting homeowners at significant financial risk in the event of a problem installation.
3. **Lower Energy Costs and Emissions:** Professional installation is critical to maximizing the efficiency of heat pumps, resulting in lower energy costs for consumers and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
4. **Promote a Responsible Industry:** Improved license compliance will also support compliance with local permit requirements and business taxes, further promoting a responsible industry.

Requiring sales of HVAC equipment only to licensed professionals and requiring disclosures to make consumers aware of this requirement will support increased compliance with existing HVAC license requirements, leading to safer, more energy efficient, and cost-effective HVAC installations for Maryland residents.

# **2025-0324 AACP Testimony on HB 1162.pdf**

Uploaded by: Peter Constantinou

Position: FAV





March 26, 2025

Brian Feldman  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Education, Energy,  
and the Environment  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Subject: FAVORABLE Position on HB1162 - Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, or Refrigeration Contractors - Equipment Sales**

Dear Chairman Feldman:

I am writing to express the support of the Association of Air Conditioning Professionals (AACCP) for HB1162. AACCP is a trade association for the heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVACR) industry representing more than 76 companies in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. We urge the Committee to provide a favorable report on HB 1162.

HB1162 will close an important gap in existing law by prohibiting HVACR equipment distributors from selling equipment to unlicensed purchasers. Maryland's HVACR license requirements provide strong protection for consumers, but unlicensed contractors are still able to purchase equipment, which means that under-the-table installs are always a risk. Such installations can be dangerous, inefficient, and costly to residents.

Modern HVACR systems are extremely powerful, and HVACR licenses require years of experience and training. Depending on the specific equipment, improper installations risk causing fires, leakage of gas or dangerous refrigerants, as well as negative health impacts in the home. Badly installed systems can exacerbate pre-existing ventilation and mold issues, and run below peak efficiency, increasing energy demand and leading to higher monthly energy costs.

Furthermore, many HVACR projects are done on an emergency basis, meaning that homeowners just want their AC or heat back. We believe it is important to have sufficiently strong consumer protections in place, ensuring that all jobs are done correctly and safely.

HB1162 will make common sense changes to help better implement Maryland's existing license requirements, which will benefit contractor businesses, equipment distributors, and most importantly, homeowners.