
By: Delegate Snodgrass

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 1996

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

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; and generally relating to
14 home improvement permits.

15 BY repealing

16 Article - Business Regulation
17 Section 8-504
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (1992 Volume and 1995 Supplement)

20 BY adding to

21 Article - Business Regulation
22 Section 8-504
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (1992 Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

27 **Article - Business Regulation**

28 [8-504.

29 Except for a permit for a home improvement to be performed by a property owner,
30 the building and permits department of a county may not issue a permit for a home
31 improvement unless the permit includes the license number of a licensed contractor.]

2

1 8-504.

2 (A) THE BUILDING AND PERMITS DEPARTMENT OF A COUNTY, MUNICIPAL
3 CORPORATION, OR OTHER LOCAL ISSUING AUTHORITY MAY NOT ISSUE ANY
4 PERMIT FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT UNLESS THE PERMIT APPLICATION INCLUDES A
5 NOTICE THAT:

6 (1) PROVIDES A CURRENT STATUTORY DEFINITION OF "HOME
7 IMPROVEMENT";

8 (2) INCLUDES THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE COMMISSION; AND

9 (3) CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

10 "EACH CONTRACTOR AND EACH SUBCONTRACTOR MUST BE LICENSED BY THE
11 MARYLAND HOME IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION. ANY PERSON MAY ASK THE
12 MARYLAND HOME IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION ABOUT A CONTRACTOR OR
13 SUBCONTRACTOR."

14 (B) THE BUILDING AND PERMITS DEPARTMENT OF A COUNTY, MUNICIPAL
15 CORPORATION, OR OTHER LOCAL ISSUING AUTHORITY MAY NOT ISSUE A PERMIT
16 FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT TO BE PERFORMED BY A PROPERTY OWNER UNLESS THE
17 APPLICATION INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT, SIGNED BY THE PROPERTY
18 OWNER:

19 "I AM AN OWNER OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS PERMIT APPLICATION.
20 I WILL PERSONALLY PERFORM THE WORK DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT AT THE
21 PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE PERMIT. I UNDERSTAND THAT I MAY PERSONALLY
22 COMPLETE IMPROVEMENTS ON MY HOME WITHOUT BEING A LICENSED HOME
23 IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS ILLEGAL FOR AN
24 INDIVIDUAL TO ACT AS A HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR OR
25 SUBCONTRACTOR IN MARYLAND WITHOUT BEING LICENSED AND THAT NO CLAIMS
26 MAY BE MADE AGAINST THE HOME IMPROVEMENT GUARANTEE FUND FOR
27 DAMAGES OR LOSSES SUFFERED BY A PROPERTY OWNER WHO HIRES AN
28 UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR."

29 (C) THE BUILDING AND PERMITS DEPARTMENT OF A COUNTY, MUNICIPAL
30 CORPORATION, OR OTHER LOCAL ISSUING AUTHORITY MAY NOT ISSUE A PERMIT
31 FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT TO BE PERFORMED BY A HOME IMPROVEMENT
32 CONTRACTOR UNLESS:

33 (1) THE PERMIT INCLUDES THE LICENSE NUMBER OF A LICENSED
34 CONTRACTOR; AND

35 (2) THE APPLICATION FOR THE PERMIT CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING
36 STATEMENT, SIGNED BY THE PROPERTY OWNER:

37 "I AM AN OWNER OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS PERMIT APPLICATION.
38 I UNDERSTAND THAT EACH CONTRACTOR AND SUBCONTRACTOR MUST BE
39 LICENSED BY THE HOME IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION AND THAT ANYONE MAY ASK
40 THE COMMISSION ABOUT A CONTRACTOR OR A SUBCONTRACTOR. I FURTHER
41 UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS ILLEGAL FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO ACT AS A HOME

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1 IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR IN MARYLAND WITHOUT BEING
2 LICENSED AND THAT NO CLAIMS MAY BE MADE AGAINST THE HOME IMPROVEMENT
3 GUARANTEE FUND FOR DAMAGES OR LOSSES SUFFERED BY A PROPERTY OWNER
4 WHO HIRES AN UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR.

5 I HAVE RECEIVED FROM MY CONTRACTOR THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE
6 MARYLAND HOME IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION."

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

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 1996.