

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 794 (Senator Mautz)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Maryland Home Improvement Commission - Residential Solar Power System
Installation - Contractor License Required**

This bill expressly requires a person to have a contractor license with the Maryland Home Improvement Commission (MHIC) to install residential solar power system equipment.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill codifies existing practice, as MHIC already requires a contractor license for the installation of residential solar power system equipment.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: MHIC in the Maryland Department of Labor licenses and regulates home improvement contractors and salespersons, subject to specified requirements for licensure and ongoing licensee behavior. MHIC also administers a guaranty fund for the purpose of reimbursing homeowners for actual losses due to the errors and omissions of licensed contractors and their subcontractors, salespersons, and employees.

“Home improvement” means (1) the addition to or alteration, conversion, improvement, modernization, remodeling, repair, or replacement of a building or part of a building that is used or designed to be used as a residence or dwelling place or a structure adjacent to that building or (2) an improvement to land adjacent to the building.

“Home improvement” includes (1) construction, improvement, or replacement, on land adjacent to the building, of a driveway, fall-out shelter, fence, garage, landscaping, deck, pier, porch, or swimming pool; (2) a shore erosion control project for a residential property; (3) connection, installation, or replacement, in the building or structure, of a dishwasher, disposal, or refrigerator with an icemaker to existing exposed household plumbing lines; (4) installation, in the building or structure, of an awning, fire alarm, or storm window; and (5) work done on individual condominium units.

Additional Comment: The Maryland Energy Administration advises that its new high volume solar program (Maryland Solar Access Program) requires an MHIC license for installers.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 1170 (Delegate Adams, *et al.*) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Labor; Public Service Commission; Maryland Energy Administration; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2025
js/mcr

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