

February 21, 2020

The Honorable Dereck Davis
Chairman, House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for House Bill 1453 (Home Builder Registration and Home Improvement Licenses - Professional Education Requirements)

Dear Chairman Davis:

The Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, supports House Bill 1453 (Home Builder Registration and Home Improvement Licenses - Professional Education Requirements).

This bill requires registered home builders, registered home builder sales representatives, licensed home improvement contractors, and licensed home improvement salespeople to complete a professional education course as a condition of registration or license renewal. The curriculum would be approved by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and the Maryland Home Improvement Commission (MHIC), who would also be responsible for maintaining professional education records for registrants and licensees.

MBIA supports the intent of this bill, which is to legitimize good actors in the industry and encourage continuing education. This is particularly valuable as new technologies emerge and construction codes change to meet them.

We have expressed some concerns to the sponsor about some of the language in the bill, specifically with regard to the Home Builder Sales Representative Registration Unit section of the bill. The concern comes from who within the company needs to get the training. This is not a one size fits all situation and there are various types of companies that are registered (ranging from large national builders to regional and small size builders). Furthermore, the Home Builder Registration is done by companies (as opposed to individuals like the MHIC license).

We look forward to working with the sponsor to clarify the language. MBIA asks for a favorable report.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: House Economic Matters Committee Members