
Senate Bill 116

Date: January 9, 2020
Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Bill Title: Maryland Home Improvement Commission - Sunset Extension
Re: **Letter of Support**

Senate Bill 116 extends the sunset provisions of the Maryland Home Improvement Commission (commission) from July 1, 2022 to July 1, 2032.

The commission ensures protection of consumers and regulates the actions of licensees within Maryland's home improvement industry. To that end, the commission regulates licensees, investigates consumer complaints, awards monetary damages, and refers violations of Maryland's home improvement laws and regulations for prosecution.

The commission's authority covers home improvement work, which includes alteration, remodeling, repair, or replacement of a building or part of a building used as a residence. The commission licenses approximately 21,500 individuals. In FY2019, the commission received 1,490 new complaints, closed 1,610 investigations, and awarded \$766,799.57 to consumers from the Guaranty Fund.

The commission has oversight of the Guaranty Fund, which is funded through assessments paid by licensed contractors when they obtain and renew their home improvement licenses. The fund compensates homeowners for actual monetary losses due to poor workmanship or failure to perform a home improvement contract.

The commission's role in ensuring the safe and competent practice by home improvement contractors and salespersons is vital to Maryland's economy and the protection of the public. **For this reason, the department respectfully requests a favorable report from the committee on Senate Bill 116.**