

Written Testimony on Maryland HB 1262

March 5, 2021

Delegate Dereck Davis, Chair  
Delegate Kathleen Dumais, Vice Chair  
House Economic Matters Committee (ECM)  
6 Bladen Street  
House Office Building, Room 231  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: ESA Position on HB 1262 - Support with Amendment

On behalf of the Electronic Security Association, I wish to submit our support for HB 1262, with amendments. While we support the effort for statewide electrical licensing in Maryland, this bill leaves low-voltage (limited energy) integrators with uncertainty, ambiguity, and the potential for significant disruption of a growing and thriving industry. We will support this bill with an amendment that provides a simple definition for "low-voltage electrician".

Without defining what "low-voltage" is, it will be impossible for authorities having jurisdiction (AHJ) or low-voltage integrators themselves to know whether they are exempt under this licensing framework. In addition, the opportunity for wildly inconsistent, unfair and incongruent interpretations among regulators and AHJs would be virtually certain.

We respectfully submit our support for this legislation that includes the following definition for "limited energy integrators" which we believe should be the proper term used for "low-voltage electrician".

"Limited energy integrator" means an individual who has the experience, knowledge, and skill to provide limited energy services on the load side of a transformer, which is connected directly by a licensed electrician or by plugging into an existing receptacle. Voltage is not to exceed 100 VAC or VDC unless listed to prevent hazards to life and property. Installation in a manner that complies with applicable plans, specifications, codes, or laws.

Respectfully Submitted,



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#### About ESA

ESA is the largest trade association in the United States representing large and small businesses that professionally install, service and monitor electronic security and life safety systems for the public. ESA member companies represent more than 70 percent of the market for intrusion, fire alarm, access control and video surveillance systems, which are a vital component of public safety. They employ over 500,000 security industry professionals, and service millions of residential and commercial clients. ESA has approximately 2,000 members across all 50 states, U.S. Territories, Canada and several countries.