



March 7, 2023

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: CEDIA's support for Senate Bill 0444**

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee:

On behalf of CEDIA, the association for the professionally installed smart home, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill 0444, The Act related to the licensing of limited energy contractors and limited energy integrators would have a positive effect on our members in Maryland and the customers they serve throughout the state.

CEDIA represents residential integrators who specialize in providing entertainment, networking, control, automation, lighting, and audio video systems throughout the home. CEDIA member companies have bona fide qualifications and years of experience in this specialized, ever-changing, and technology-driven field. Most CEDIA members are small, independent residential integrators with a strong entrepreneurial spirit. Residential integrators represent a vital part of the of the small business community throughout Maryland.

The Work of Limited Energy Contractors and Integrators

Integrators are technology advocates and service providers for residential and commercial projects. Integrators have an immense impact on the productivity and lifestyles that consumers enjoy in their homes and in commercial spaces. They are the architects of the connected experience for their clients. These experts design, install, integrate, program, and automate a variety of technology systems so that everything works together easily and intuitively.

Integrators work to simplify technology while enhancing the space they work in through design and integration. Technology systems require well-trained and technologically astute integrators, who understand not only the intricacies of installing these various systems, but also how to integrate these systems so they work in conjunction with each other through the ease of a single control device often on a network. Integrators are the professionals who install, configure, and maintain these technology ecosystems.

The need for a well-trained workforce that is knowledgeable in how to install, maintain, connect, and deploy these dual functioning devices and systems in the role of the integrator. The need for integrators will increase as consumers demand for connected devices on a secure network at home and work will significantly increase with emerging technologies.

CEDIA supports Senate Bill 0444 to ensure our members can obtain a state license which meets their scope of work and will streamline the licensing process throughout Maryland.

### Safety of Technology Systems

Senate Bill 0444 recognizes the importance of the National Electrical Code® and the safety of Class 2 and Class 3 circuits defined by the National Electrical Code®.

The home is now one complex technological system with many interrelated systems. These systems are safe and work together to allow homeowners to embrace and benefit from a connected home. The National Electrical Code®, published by the National Fire Protection Association, ensures that category cables and systems are used and installed in a manner that protect people and property from hazards. Residential integrators work safely with Class 2 and Class 3 circuits as defined by the National Electrical Code®. UL Safety Standards also align with Class 2 and Class 3 definitions when listing equipment as meeting the National Electrical Code® criteria.

As technology has evolved more systems and applications depend on Class 2 and Class 3 circuits for solutions in residential and commercial projects and Senate Bill 0444 supports the work done by integrators on projects throughout Maryland.

On behalf of CEDIA, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill 0444. CEDIA looks forward to working with Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, staff, and other industry stakeholders on Senate Bill 0444. Together we can work to meet the growing technology needs of Marylanders. Thank you for your time and consideration on this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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