

Mead Tree& Turf Care, Inc.

March 1, 2023, 2023

SB-0586 Natural Resources – Licensed Tree Experts - Alterations

**SPONSOR:** Hester

**POSITION:** Favorable

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Good afternoon, Chairman Feldman, Vice Chairman Kagan, and members of the committee. Thank you for allowing me to present on SB-0586

I have been in the tree care business in Maryland for 44 years as a professional Arborist, And Licensed Tree Expert. I am an instructor for Tree Care Industry Assoc. Past President of Maryland Arborist Assoc. The Sharing of a Tree Expert License is causing harm to the industry and the consumer. There are several operators who share the license for a fee with no supervision of the unlicensed. There are several including I who lives in far western Maryland who sharing his license with someone in Baltimore county with absolute no supervision among numerous others. These operators many time leave property damage and never return to repair as there is no recourse for the homeowner as there is no license to hold them accountable to.

These operators are most likely Un-insured , Under Insured or insured in a whole other classification, leaving the consumer and their employees without adequate protection. If an incident happens while working on their property.

As I owner/operator in Maryland we are required to provide 40 hours of sick leave in the first year of employment and with occasion when one who comes from one of these companies they are requesting to be paid cash, partial cash and a small payroll check and 2 have never heard of the sick leave requirement. As a legitimate business we offer all the benefits to attract talent and participate in an apprenticeship program in Maryland. This level of licenses provides an unfair or unlevel playing field to operate as they have created a level of very low or no overhead to operate a business.

I respectfully ask that you provide a favorable report on Senate Bill SB-0586

Robert A. Mead

CA, LTE # 280, CTSP, QCL, TRAQ Qualified.