



Testimony By Thomas Bello, Executive Vice President
Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington (MCAMW)

in Support of House Bill 92 and Senate Bill 263

Before the
House Economic Matters Committee and Senate Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Chairs Wilson and Feldman, and Honorable Members of the Committees,

On behalf of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington (MCAMW), I am pleased to submit testimony in strong support of House Bill 92 and Senate Bill 263. MCAMW represents 200 mechanical construction contractors employing approximately 10,000 workers and 1,000 apprentices across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) region. Our member contractors work in partnership with local unions, hiring halls, and apprenticeship training centers of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association throughout Maryland. Collectively, our economic footprint contributes approximately \$2 billion annually and generates \$500 million in state, federal, and local tax revenues each year.

House Bill 92 and Senate Bill 263 propose a crucial extension of the period during which Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVACR) contractors may apply for license restoration after expiration—from the current 90-day limit to four years. This legislative change is a practical and necessary measure that will allow qualified contractors to remain in compliance without facing undue hardship, particularly those who may have faced unexpected life events such as medical emergencies or logistical challenges in accessing the licensing system.

Under current law, contractors who fail to renew their licenses within the 90-day period must undergo the full initial application process, including retaking examinations and meeting stringent qualification criteria. This requirement creates unnecessary obstacles for skilled professionals who have already demonstrated their competence and commitment to the industry. By aligning the restoration timeline with other Maryland mechanical licensing boards, HB92 and SB263 provide a fair and consistent approach across the sector.



Furthermore, extending the reinstatement period will benefit Maryland's construction industry by ensuring a stable and experienced workforce, preventing disruptions in the labor market, and supporting ongoing infrastructure projects without delays caused by licensing lapses. This legislation also mitigates the administrative burden on both contractors and regulatory agencies by reducing the number of individuals forced to requalify unnecessarily.

For these reasons, we urge the committees to issue a favorable report on House Bill 92 and Senate Bill 263 to support Maryland's HVACR professionals and the broader construction industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Bello", is positioned below the "Respectfully submitted," text.

Thomas L. Bello
Executive Vice President
Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington