

MARLON AMPREY
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DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Economic Matters Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Chairman Wilson
Vice Chair Crosby
Maryland House Economic Matters Committee
230 Taylor House Office Building
231 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

March 4th, 2025

Testimony of Delegate Marlon Amprey in Support of House Bill 1348 Consumer Protection - Solicitation Following a Disaster Act of 2025

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support House Bill 1348, the *Consumer Protection - Solicitation Following a Disaster Act*, which safeguards disaster victims from predatory solicitation by contractors in the critical first 48 hours after a disaster. This bill is essential to protecting families and individuals from being exploited during their most vulnerable moments.


In the summer of 2024, a fire tore through rowhomes in a Baltimore City neighborhood, leaving families in distress. Within hours, a property restoration company descended on the victims, aggressively offering boarding services at grossly inflated prices—far exceeding market rates. These unethical practices drained victims' limited recovery funds, hindering their ability to fully restore their homes. Sadly, this is not an isolated incident. Exploitative solicitations after disasters have been reported across Maryland, underscoring the urgent need for protections against such predatory behavior.

HB1348 defines a contractor as any individual or entity offering residential property work and recognizes a disaster as any serious event causing structural damage—regardless of an official emergency declaration. Under this bill, contractors are prohibited from soliciting disaster victims within 48 hours of a disaster unless they have a pre-existing business relationship with the victim. Violations constitute unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practices, enforceable under Title 13, with penalties ranging from investigations and civil damages to criminal consequences.

HB1348 is a vital step toward shielding disaster victims from financial exploitation and ensuring ethical business practices in the wake of a crisis.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on HB1407.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marlon Amprey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marlon" and the last name "Amprey" clearly distinguishable.

Delegate Marlon Amprey
40th Legislative District of Maryland