



House Economic Matters Committee Hearing

February 26, 2025

Comments of Andrew Oser

in SUPPORT of

**HB1162 -- Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, or Refrigeration Contractors -
Equipment Sales**

Chair Wilson and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Andrew Oser, and I am the director of operations for GAC Services, an HVAC, electrical, and plumbing services company with over fifty years of experience in Maryland. I am also speaking on behalf of the Association of Air Conditioning Professionals (AACCP), a trade association for the HVACR industry representing more than 70 companies in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. I am here today to request a favorable report on HB 1162.

This legislation closes an important gap in existing law by prohibiting HVAC equipment distributors from selling equipment to unlicensed purchasers. Maryland's HVAC license requirements provide strong protection for consumers, but unlicensed contractors are still able to purchase equipment, which means that under-the-table installs are always a risk. Such installations can be dangerous, inefficient, and costly to residents.

Modern HVAC systems are extremely powerful, and HVAC licenses require years of experience and training. Depending on the specific equipment, improper installations risk causing fires, leakage of gas or dangerous refrigerants, as well as negative health impacts in the home. Badly installed systems can exacerbate pre-existing ventilation and mold issues, and run

below peak efficiency, increasing energy demand and leading to higher monthly energy costs. Furthermore, many HVAC projects are done on an emergency basis, meaning that homeowners just want their AC or heat back. We believe it is important to have sufficiently strong consumer protections in place, ensuring that all jobs are done correctly and safely.

HB1162 will make common sense changes to help better implement Maryland's existing license requirements, which will benefit contractor businesses, equipment distributors, and most importantly, homeowners. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today and I respectfully urge a favorable report on this bill.