

Journeyman Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



Local Union No. 602

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AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

Testimony of Chris Madello, Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer

United Association (UA) Steamfitters Local 602

In Support of HB92 / SB263

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

Chairs Wilson and Feldman, and Honorary members of the House Economic Matters Committee and Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of House Bill 92 / Senate Bill 263, which seeks to extend the time period during which Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVACR) licensees may apply for license restoration from 90 days to four years.

As Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer of UA Steamfitters Local 602, a union dedicated to serving the HVAC industry and ensuring high-quality workmanship across the state, I believe this legislation is a necessary and practical measure that benefits our members and the industry at large.

The UA Steamfitters Local 602 represents some 6,031 Journeymen, 1200 Apprentices, and 205 signatory Mechanical Construction and Service Contractors in the Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Process Piping Industry throughout the Washington, DC Metropolitan area. Our economic and workforce footprint is enormous, including having performed more than 9,000,000 work hours in 2024 alone. We understand how to make Maryland work, because it's what we do, each and every day.

Our work is a business-labor partnership, and our contractor affiliates, represented by the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metro Washington (MCAMW), is a powerful driver of local economies throughout the region, generating some \$2 BILLION in annual revenue, and some \$500 MILLION in state, federal and local taxes each and every year.

House Bill 92 / Senate Bill 263 recognizes the realities faced by many hardworking HVACR professionals. Whether due to unforeseen personal challenges, such as health issues or financial hardships, the current 90-day reinstatement period does not provide sufficient flexibility for licensees to regain their credentials without unnecessary burdens. By extending the reinstatement period to four years, this bill aligns Maryland's policies with those of other mechanical licensing boards and offers a fair opportunity for skilled workers to continue contributing to the industry without having to restart their licensing process entirely.

Additionally, this legislation will help ensure a steady workforce in the HVACR sector, which is critical to Maryland's economy and the well-being of its residents. Skilled HVACR technicians are

essential to maintaining safe and efficient heating and cooling systems in homes, businesses, and public facilities. HB 92 / SB263 supports workforce retention by preventing qualified professionals from being sidelined due to administrative hurdles.

The extension of the reinstatement period will also reduce administrative burdens on the State Board of HVACR Contractors by decreasing the volume of initial applications and examination requirements for those who simply need to renew their expired licenses. Furthermore, it will provide continuity for employers and clients who depend on the experience and expertise of licensed professionals.

In conclusion, House Bill 92 / Senate Bill 263 is a commonsense solution that promotes workforce stability, fairness, and continued professional development for HVACR workers. I urge the committee to give this legislation a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher M. Madello

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UA Steamfitters Local 602