

# **SB0263\_MDL\_Support - HVACR License Modification Wr**

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Position: FAV

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**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON SB0263**

TO: Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee  
DATE: 1/30/25  
BILL: **SB0263 - Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors – Application for License Restoration**

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**MDL POSITION:** Support

This proposal extends the grace period for renewal of HVACR licenses, extending the time allowed for license renewal from 90 days to 4 years. This extension will provide greater flexibility for HVACR professionals while maintaining the necessary regulatory oversight to ensure public safety and industry standards.

The current 90 day grace period is inconsistent with the policies of other Boards within the Mechanical Licensing Unit (e.g. Electricians, Plumbing), as most Boards allow for a re-examination period of two to four years. Under the current system, an individual whose license has expired for 91 days is treated the same as someone whose license has expired for five years.

The selection of 4 years is not arbitrary as it aligns with the adoption of the industry code cycles. An individual whose license expired less than four years ago will have been working within the current code cycle, meaning their training and knowledge are still up-to-date. However, for those whose licenses have expired for more than four years, it is important to ensure they are brought up to speed with the latest code updates and requirements and thus requiring them to undergo all of the licensure requirements is justifiable.

The process for renewing an expired license can be time-consuming, involving several steps that can result in significant delays, particularly for those working a full-time job. MD Labor feels that providing additional flexibility in the renewal process brings parity to this profession, provides adequate time for the skilled professional to complete the renewal, and still ensures industry safety and oversight.

Under Maryland's current statute, individuals are required to retake the licensing exam if their HVACR license has expired for more than 90 days, regardless of the reason for expiration. The process begins when an individual applies to the Board's testing vendor, PSI Exams, as though

they were a new applicant. PSI reviews the application for completeness before forwarding it to the Board for evaluation. However, the Board's Application Review Committee only meets once a month. If an application arrives just after a meeting, it could remain in limbo for up to another month before it is reviewed. Once the Board has reviewed and approved the application, they notify PSI Exams, and the applicant can then schedule their exam at one of the six testing sites in Maryland. Due to limited availability at these sites, applicants often experience delays in securing an exam slot, further extending the timeline.

Step two involves the applicant taking and passing the exam, after which they must return to the Board to apply for license renewal. While the renewal application is submitted online, it requires additional steps before it is finalized, including a process to release the license for printing. This additional step adds even more time to an already lengthy process.

By extending the renewal period from 90 days to four years, individuals who are currently employed can return to work within days, rather than facing months of delay. This change benefits both technicians and their employers. Employers, who may otherwise be reluctant to wait for the lengthy renewal process, could be at risk of losing valuable personnel if a technician's license lapses. Similarly, technicians may face difficulties securing new employment due to the invalidity of their licenses. The proposed extension addresses both challenges by ensuring a more efficient and timely renewal process.

**To that end, MD Labor respectfully requests the Committee consider a favorable report on SB0263.**

*For any questions please contact Andrew Fulginiti, [Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov](mailto:Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov)*



LEGISLATIVE OFFICE  
45 Calvert Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
443-401-5129

[www.labor.maryland.gov](http://www.labor.maryland.gov)

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# Testimony for SB263.pdf

Uploaded by: Lori Graf

Position: FAV

January 30, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
EEE Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SUPPORT SB263 - Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors – License Restoration**

Dear Chair Feldman:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding SB263 Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors – License Restoration. MBIA **Supports** the Act in its current version.

Senate Bill 362 would extend from 90 days to 4 years the time period during which an individual who has held a heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration contractor license may apply for license restoration after expiration.

The industry is in support of any legislation that would increase or aid in increasing the number of trade jobs in the state of Maryland. Of the over 400,000 HVAC contractors in the United States, just 7,000 work in Maryland and that number is expected to grow over the next ten years but not at a rate to keep up with economic growth and construction in the state.

While, it is critical for the state to attract new heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration contractors it also as so to retain those who currently hold these licenses. The extension timeline proposed in SB263 will allow sufficient time for current heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration contractors whose licenses are about to expire or are going to, sufficient time to submit a renewal application.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

**M&A\_Chris Madello\_HB92\_SB263\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Roger Manno

Position: FAV

# Journeyman Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



## Local Union No. 602

8700 ASHWOOD DRIVE • 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR • CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD 20743

TELEPHONE: (301) 333-2356 • FAX: (301) 333-1730

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*

Chris Madello  
Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer  
UA Steamfitters Local 602

**M&A\_T Smalls\_HB92 SB263\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Roger Manno

Position: FAV



# PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION NO. 5

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO

4755 Walden Ln. Lanham, MD 20706 • 301-899-7861 (T) • 301-899-7868 (F)



Testimony of Terriea "T" Smalls, Business Manager and Financial Secretary Treasurer UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5

In Support of House Bill 92 / Senate Bill 263

Before the Maryland General Assembly House Economic Matters Committee and Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committees

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

On behalf of UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5, representing over 1,900 members and 400 apprentices and their families, I write today in strong support of House Bill 92 and Senate Bill 263. This legislation is a critical step in providing much-needed flexibility for licensed Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVACR) contractors to restore their licenses after expiration.

As union workers, we understand the importance of maintaining professional credentials and compliance with licensing regulations. However, the current 90-day reinstatement period poses significant challenges for many professionals who may face unforeseen circumstances, such as medical emergencies, family obligations, or financial hardship. By extending the reinstatement period to four years, this bill ensures that experienced and skilled workers have a fair opportunity to re-enter the workforce without the burden of starting from scratch.

UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5 takes pride in our commitment to training and developing highly skilled tradespeople who contribute to Maryland's infrastructure and economy. Our members and apprentices work tirelessly to provide safe and efficient HVACR services to homes, businesses, and public institutions. The proposed legislation aligns with our mission by supporting a stable and qualified workforce, which is essential to the well-being of our communities.

Additionally, extending the reinstatement period will alleviate administrative burdens on the State Board of HVACR Contractors by reducing the volume of initial license applications and examination requirements. This will result in greater efficiency for both the board and applicants.

In conclusion, House Bill 92 and Senate Bill 263 present a common-sense solution to ensure continuity in the HVACR industry while providing workers with the necessary flexibility to maintain their livelihoods. I respectfully urge the committees to issue a favorable report on this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Terriea "T" Smalls  
Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer  
UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5

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**Terriea "T" L. Smalls**  
Business Mgr. / Financial Sec-Treas.

**Michael S. Canales, Jr.**  
Asst. Business Manager

**Anthony A. Solis**  
Business Rep. and Organizer

**Julius Wright**  
Business Rep. and Organizer

**MCAMW\_HB92\_SB263\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Roger Manno

Position: FAV



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 text "Respectfully submitted,".

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