

**Maryland Home Improvement Commission
Public Business Meeting Minutes**

DATE: April 6, 2017

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: 500 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert A. Altieri
Sachchida Gupta
Lawrence Helminiak
William B. Quackenbush, Jr.
Jeffrey Ross
Michael Shilling
Andrew Snyder
Joseph Tunney, Chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT: I Jean White

DLLR OFFICIALS AND
STAFF PRESENT: Deborah Irvin-Cromwell, Assistant Executive Director
David R. Finneran, Executive Director
Joel Jacobson, Assistant Attorney General
Kimberly Rosenthal, Administrative Officer

Call to Order

Chair Joseph Tunney called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Approval of the February 2, 2017 Minutes

The Minutes of the February 2, 2017, Commission meeting were approved.

Guaranty Fund Activity Report

The MHIC Guaranty Fund Activity Report dated March 22, 2017 is as follows:

Balance as of July 1, 2016	\$ 1,581,595.80
Receipts	\$ 812,441.66
Interest	-0-

Disbursements	
Claims	(\$385,927.30)
Refunds	
Balance as of February 28, 2017	<u>\$2,006,985.16</u>
FMIS Balance	\$1,944,360.16
Difference	\$62,625.00

Review of Exam Results

Below is the examination statistics summary for the month of February 2017 and March 2017.

February 2017

Home Improvement	Candidates			
	Tested	Passed	Failed	Pass %
Contractor	144	104	40	72%
Contractor Spanish	49	24	25	49%
Salesperson	119	82	37	69%
Salesperson Spanish	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	312	210	102	67%

March 2017

Contractor	170	115	55	68%
Contractor Spanish	55	36	19	65%
Salesperson	118	94	24	80%
Salesperson Spanish	3	2	1	
TOTAL	346	247	99	71%

Senate Bill 183/House Bill 115

Under Senate Bill 183 and House Bill 115, the expiration date for the Mold Remediation Services subtitle of the Home Improvement Law will remain at July 1, 2019. Under the bills, if funding is not provided for implementation of the program, the program will terminate as scheduled on July 1, 2019, without further evaluation under the Maryland Program Evaluation Act or further action by the General Assembly. If funding is provided prior to the scheduled termination, the Department may submit legislation to reauthorize the program. The Sunset Review is allowing the Governor this time to make a decision.

House Bill 248/MHIC –Special Fund and Fees

This departmental bill establishes the Maryland Home Improvement Commission (MHIC) Special Fund in the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR); repeals statutory licensing fees and instead authorizes MHIC to set fees by regulation; and redirects the licensing revenue associated with MHIC from the general fund to the new special fund. Penalty revenue and investment earnings continue to accrue to the general fund. Existing statutory fees remain in effect until new fees adopted by MHIC in regulation take effect. The bill takes effect July 1, 2018. The Commissioners are in favor of this Bill.

House Bill 1058

The bill will increase the amount from one-third to one half the maximum portion of a home improvement contract price that a person may receive as a deposit before or at the time of execution of a home improvement contract. The bill passed the House. One April 3, 2017, the Senate committee issued an unfavorable report. The Commissioners are not in favor of this bill.

House Bill 959

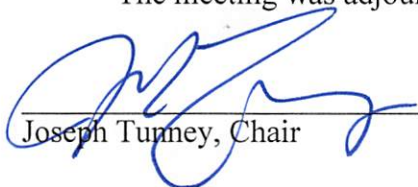
The bill will Recodify, in part, the definition of "door-to-door sale" as provisions that establish the application of the Maryland Door-to-Door Sales Act; altering the transactions to which the Maryland Door-to-Door Sales Act applies; etc. On March 31, 2017 the third reading was passed by the House.

Comments from the Executive Director

Mr. Finneran informed the Commissioners that he and Deborah Irvin-Cromwell, Assistant Executive Director, recently met with a senior group in Essex to inform them about the Maryland Home Improvement Commission. He also stated that he has met with a few contractor groups and had a booth set up at various locations to try to do more outreach and get the word out to consumers. Mr. Finneran stated that he would like to do more of this type of outreach and encourages anyone to contact him for a speaking engagement.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.



Joseph Tunney, Chair



David Finneran, Executive Director