



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
MARYLAND HOME IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION
500 N. Calvert Street, Room 306
Baltimore, MD 21202-3651

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

DATE: April 7, 2016

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sachchida Gupta
Lawrence Helminiak
Marilyn Jumalon
William B. Quackenbush, Jr.
Jeffrey Ross
Michael Shilling
Joseph Tunney
I. Jean White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Andrew Snyder

**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 10:15 a.m.

Approval of the February 4, 2016 Minutes

The Minutes of the February 4, 2016, Commission meeting were unanimously approved.

PHONE: 410-230-6309 • FAX: 410-962-8482 • TTY USERS, CALL VIA THE MARYLAND RELAY SERVICE
INTERNET: WWW.DLLR.MARYLAND.GOV • E-MAIL: DLOPLMHIC-DLLR@MARYLAND.GOV

LARRY HOGAN, GOVERNOR • BOYD K. RUTHERFORD, LT. GOVERNOR • KELLY M. SCHULZ, SECRETARY

Guaranty Fund Activity Report

The MHIC Guaranty Fund Activity Report dated March 21, 2016 is as follows:

Balance as of July 1, 2015	\$ 888,747.30
Receipts	\$ 921,282.69
Interest	-0-
Disbursements	
Claims	(\$497,488.89)
Refunds	
Balance as of February 28, 2016	<u>\$ 1,312,541.10</u>
FMIS Balance	\$1,250,464.22
Difference	\$62,076.88

Mr. Finneran informed the Commission that there are only two major payouts of \$100,000 expected in the near future. There are currently 27 claims against Maryland Pools and one was not in MHIC's jurisdiction. Chair Tunney inquired if a claim came in that is not in the Commission's jurisdiction how does MHIC respond to the claim. Mr. Finneran explained that it's marked non reportable to the public and a letter goes out to the homeowner stating that the Commission has no jurisdiction.

Review of Exam Results

Below is the examination statistics summary for the month of February and March 2016.

February 2016

Home Improvement	Candidates Tested	Passed	Failed	Pass %
Contractor	152	96	56	63%
Contractor Spanish	51	32	19	63%
Subcontractor	16	9	7	56%
Subcontractor Spanish	12	0	12	0%
Salesperson	117	84	33	72%
Salesperson Spanish	2	2	0	100%
TOTAL	350	223	127	64%

March 2016

Contractor	173	127	46	73%
Contractor Spanish	55	34	21	62%
Subcontractor	8	5	3	63%
Subcontractor Spanish	12	3	9	25%
Salesperson	156	112	44	72%
Salesperson Spanish	0	0	0	
TOTAL	404	281	123	70%

Installation of Pesticides Treated Insulation

It has been the longstanding interpretation of the Commission that the installation of insulation products in residential property constitutes a home improvement service which requires a contractor license from the Commission. The Commission herein specifically clarifies that the licensing requirement applies to the installation of all residential insulation products, including insulation products which are treated with pesticides. Commissioner Ross made a motion and Commissioner Shilling seconded the motion and all Commissioners were in favor.

Comments from Chair

Commissioner Gupta informed the Commission that he has seen examples of Virginia contractors soliciting home improvement work in Maryland without a MHIC license. He explained that these contractors often distribute flyers on cars and in the mail. Mr. Finneran informed him that in Maryland home improvement contractors are required by law to have their MHIC license displayed on their trucks with at least 3 inch lettering. Home improvement contractors also are required to display their MHIC license number in all advertisements. The Commission has available an online complaint form that can be submitted anonymously with photos and any information to initiate an investigation of an unlicensed contractor. MHIC welcomes these complaints. The form can be download at <http://www.dllr.state.md.us> .

Commissioner Tunney and Commissioner Jumalon stated that they would like the Legislature to consider making it a felony offense to perform home improvement work in the State of Maryland without a license. Commissioner White stated that she would like increased efforts to educate the public about the dangers that come with hiring an unlicensed contractor. Commissioner Helminiak suggested approaching local radio stations about presenting public service announcements to inform the public about the dangers of hiring unlicensed contractors.

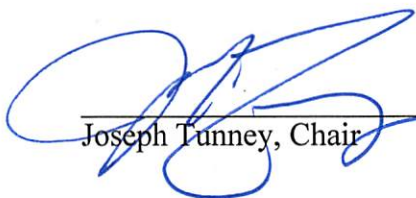
Comments from the Executive Director

Mr. Finneran informed the Commission that there are currently two vacant Investigator positions in MHIC. One position will be filled this month. There are currently 90 complaints open for each of the 7 Investigator's currently staffed with the Commission.

Mr. Finneran also informed the Commission that there will be an Original Licensing application that will be online for the public's use. He stated that an individual will be able to apply for a license online once they take the home improvement contractor's examination and pass it with at least a 70%. However, there will be some supporting documents which an original license applicant will not be able to submit online. Those documents will still need to be submitted in hard copy format. This new application process should take effect within the next few weeks. Also online filing of complaint forms will be available as well in the near future.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.



Joseph Tunney, Chair



David Finneran, Executive Director