

TO: Dear Chairmen Baram and Leone as well as the rest of the General Law Committee

From: John L. Grant, BO

Re: Proposed Bill No. 5785 - SUPPORT

First, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed bill No. 5785 in regards to requiring Home Improvement Contractors to carry liability insurance and to complete a written test showing they have read The Connecticut Contractor for Home Improvement and New Home Construction booklet published by the Department of Consumer Protection.

I am a licensed Building Official with the City of Bridgeport in the position of Plan Reviewer. In my position I receive all building permit applications being submitted, review the information for code compliance and approve the applications for permits to be issued.

While I can only speak of my experiences in Bridgeport, over the 8 years that I have been with the Building Department 90% of the applications for building permits received are for residential projects and out of that approx. 70% are by the home owner. As a personal regard to insure the home owners are aware of their rights I have asked them if they have a written contract per the CT Home Improvement Act Contract Requirements with the contractor, to which approx. 90% reply no or have no knowledge of what I am asking.

I have had applicants show me proposal sheets, invoices, store purchased agreement forms and other forms of written documents given to them by the Contractor as the contract. Also, I have asked the Contractors that do apply for a permit if they have provided their client with a contract containing the required information and the 3-day Cancellation Right language. To which an over whelming response is no.

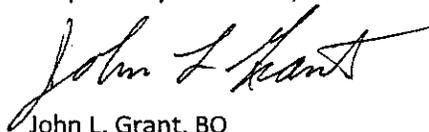
As to the requirement for the contractor to provide liability insurance, I support this requirement. To many times I receive complaints from the home owner asking me what can done because the contractor has caused damage to other parts of the home or property and not fixing it. While this bill will not cure this, it offers the property owner an avenue to receiving compensation or the repair to be made.

While this bill will not slow down or stop other issues related to the home construction field, its intent to insure the person(s) applying for a contractor registration are fully aware of their obligations by law to the property owner and thus can be held accountable if they do not follow the Law.

I firmly believe it will back up the intent of the Law to help protect the home owner by insuring the Contractors follow the laws in place and acknowledges so in witting by testing.

I am in full support of this bill and hope that you pass it to further protect the home owner.

Respectfully Submitted,



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