



**State Representative Bill Patmon  
Sponsor Testimony  
House Bill 148  
November 13, 2018**

Good Afternoon Chairman Ryan, Vice-Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Cera and members of the House Finance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 148, which will create a standard for home improvement contractors throughout the state.

In the state of Ohio general contractors are licensed at the local level based on a regions specific guidelines. While electrical, plumbing, refrigeration, and HVAC systems are licensed at the state level. Currently there is no entity regulating the licensure of home improvement contractors in Ohio as a whole. Cities, counties and municipalities in Ohio may enact their own regulation and requirements for home improvement licensing and registration, which leaves room for victimization.

Ohio's homeowners are vulnerable to be preyed upon by under-qualified and fraudulent home improvement companies who perform substandard and defective work, sometimes costing hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt for the homeowner. This industry is almost completely unregulated in Ohio. Home improvement companies while required to have a license have been known to subcontract work to businesses or people who do not have licensure to complete home improvements.

House Bill 148 creates a home improvement board within the Department of Commerce responsible for registering home improvement contractors throughout the state and regulating their membership.

Requirements include:

- Implementation a statewide public campaign to educate consumers of the requirement and makes an appropriation for that cost of \$1,000,000.00.
- Requires a home improvement contractor to present a copy of the contractor's registration to a consumer before performing or offering to perform any improvement services.

- Requires that an applicant or registrant must satisfy continuing education requirements.
- Specifies that any work a business entity conducts under an assigned registration is deemed to be conducted under the personal supervision of the person named in the registration.
- Allows the board to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue a registration or impose a fine on a registration holder for engaging in:
  - Fraud
  - Misrepresentation
  - Deception in the conduct of business
  - Transferring the holder's registration to another individual or entity without approval of the board.

It is my hope that the creation of a state home improvement board through House Bill 148 will give homeowners a sense of security.

Again, Chairman Ryan and all members of the Finance Committee I thank you for your time and am more than happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this legislation.