



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Proposed Bill No. 189

LCO No. 465



Referred to Committee on GENERAL LAW

Introduced by:
SEN. WITKOS, 8th Dist.

**AN ACT CONCERNING NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION
CONTRACTORS AND HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That chapters 399a and 400 of general statutes be amended to: (1)
- 2 Require new home construction contractors and home improvement
- 3 contractors to register online annually and allow them to change name
- 4 or business form free of charge, (2) specify the contents of a contract
- 5 between a new home construction contractor and consumer, including
- 6 provisions related to allowable financing charges, (3) increase new
- 7 home construction contractor contribution to the guaranty fund from
- 8 four hundred and eighty dollars biennially to three hundred and forty
- 9 dollars annually, (4) allow consumers to access funds with binding
- 10 arbitration decision, (5) raise the payout cap for the home improvement
- 11 contractor's fund from fifteen thousand dollars to twenty-five thousand
- 12 dollars, (6) define "home improvement" work for purposes of the home
- 13 improvement contractor registration to include installing alarm systems
- 14 that don't require electrical work, (7) expand the Department of
- 15 Consumer Protection's enforcement options regarding new home

16 construction contractors and home improvement contractors, by
17 allowing for the placement conditions on certificates, (8) create an
18 umbrella salesperson registration for retailers operating from a fixed
19 location, (9) count limited license holders as journeymen or contractors
20 for purposes of the hiring ratio, even if they are enrolled in an unlimited
21 license apprenticeship program, (10) exempt from a locksmith
22 registration requirement individuals who work on electronic locks and
23 such devices used in a security system, if an electrician does the
24 electrical work, and (11) raise from five thousand dollars to fifteen
25 thousand dollars the maximum claim amount that can be brought to
26 small claims court, if the issue is related to a registered home
27 improvement contractor or new home construction contractor.

Statement of Purpose:

To update new home construction contractor and home improvement contractor statutes.