

MID-ATLANTIC PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION



**7050 Oakland Mills Road
Suite 180
Columbia, MD 21046**

**Phone: 410-290-3890
www.midatlanticpipetrades.org**

To: Gabe Alborno, President – Montgomery County Council, & Members of the Council.

From: Jason Ascher, Political Director – Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association.

Testimony in Opposition to Council Bill 12-22

Electricity-Board of Electrical Examiners-Licenses-Permit Requirements

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades and our United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Locals and members in Montgomery County, I ask you to **OPPOSE** Council Bill 12-22.

Licensing in the construction industry is about two things, protecting the public and ensuring that all workers meet a minimum skill and training level in their craft to do their job safely. Construction is a dangerous job, and construction workers need the training and experience to help ensure that worksites are safe for them and the public or end-user after construction. Licensed workers are guaranteed a minimum level of safety training and work experience to ensure the completed project is safe for public use.

Even in the plumbing and pipefitting industry, we train our workers to do basic electrical work, so they know how to do it safely. Therefore, exempting low voltage systems from licensing would be a mistake. The systems that fall under low voltage are vital to most people's everyday life, and ensuring they get installed safely is a priority. These systems include fire alarms, which along with the fire sprinkler systems my members build and maintain, save lives when they work correctly. Other systems such as cable tv, telephones, and computer networking are things most people would use regularly, and we need to ensure they get installed safely, so people do not get hurt.

As I said, the minimum level of experience and safety training you need to receive a license will ensure public safety. Therefore, I ask that you please **OPPOSE** Council Bill 12-22.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

Plumbers and Gasfitter Local 5 – Camp Springs, MD
Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 10 – Richmond, VA/Roanoke, VA
Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 110 – Norfolk, VA
Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669 – Columbia, MD

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486 – Baltimore, MD
Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 489 – Cumberland, MD
Steamfitters Local 602 – Capitol Heights, MD

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