



RI BUILDERS
ASSOCIATION
BUILDING PROFESSIONALS SINCE 1945

March 12, 2025

To: The Honorable Joseph Soloman - Chairman House Corporations Committee

Re: H 5828

Dear Chairman Soloman,

The RI Builders Association (RIBA), the State's residential construction trade association with over 1,000 member companies, is writing to inform the committee of its support for the proposed Residential Contractor Licensing. We feel the bill provides a realistic three-tiered approach with home building, remodeling, and home improvement (will stay as registered) activities and seems to allow for reasonable pathways for existing building contractors to obtain licensing without grandfathering, and for new contractors the ability to develop the skill sets needed to enter and compete within the industry.

The trade association wants to stress that any of the rules empowered to be developed by the CRLB should not create an unreasonable barrier for contractors as it is our mission and objective in supporting this bill that new contractors be able to obtain the skill sets needed to become licensed – the language in this bill seems to address this critical issue well.

Additionally, the association feels that licensing the structural and / or home building contractor/remodeler will greatly improve the construction process in the field as the expectation between inspectors and contractors will now better align - potentially leading to increased code compliance, work quality, and overall conformance at inspection. It is also our hope that consumers will have more confidence and assurance with the capacity of a licensed home builder who will now have to prove a minimum degree of competency to perform the contracted work.

That's important because at current, the registration process puts all contractors in the same category and allows any registered contractor (10,000+) to build anything - and they can do so without any demonstrated knowledge or competency. Hence, moving to a reasonable licensing standard - with the requirement for some demonstrated competency - should provide for much better outcomes overall.

That stated, we do have two areas of concern that we want to request the committee consider. First, the time frame for the rule creation and implementation seems unrealistic as we don't feel that a 2026 regulatory date is achievable, and we don't feel a 2027 start date is possible – there are just too many variables and too short a timeframe to educate the industry, inspector base, and remaining industry sectors. Plus, the CRLB is unlikely to be able to develop a set of rules in 6 months. So, we suggest a 2027 regulatory completion date, with a timeframe after adoption that would allow for a degree of reasonable notice.

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Lastly, we would strongly suggest that the composition of the 17 member CRLB, be reviewed and that members of niche, or unrelated aspects of the industry who may be represented on the board, and/or those designated positions that do not show, have not shown, or refuse to participate, be replaced with new categories and representation, or that the law be written so that those who do not attend or participate can be easily replaced.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the committee this letter of support and please know we are available to discuss or testify further if requested.

Most respectfully


John Marcantonio
Executive Officer

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