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2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto


Chairman Phil Mendelson

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5 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George
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10 A BILL
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14 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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18 To amend Subchapter I-B of Chapter 28 of Title 47 to create a Board of Residential and
19 Commercial Contractors; and to establish eligibility criteria for the licensure of
20 residential and commercial contractors.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
23 act may be cited as the “General Contractor Licensing Amendment Act of 2024”.

24 Sec. 2. Subchapter I-B of Chapter 28 of Title 47 of the District of Columbia Official Code
25 is amended as follows:

26 (a) The table of contents is amended as follows:

27 “Part N-i. Residential and commercial contractors.

28 “Sec. 47-2853.175. Definitions.

29 “Sec. 47.2853.176. Scope of practice for residential and commercial contractors.

30 “Sec. 47-2853.178. Necessity for license; exemptions.

31 “Sec. 47-2853.177. Eligibility criteria.”.

32 (b) Section 47-2853.06 is amended by adding a new subsection (i) to read as follows:

33 “(i) There is established a Board of Residential and Commercial Contractors to
34 consist of 7 members, of whom:

35 “(A) One shall be construction managers licensed in the District;
36 “(B) Four shall be general contractors licensed in the District with at least
37 two years of experience in residential property construction or repair; and
38 “(C) Two shall be general contractors licensed in the District with at least
39 two years of experience in commercial property construction or repair.”.

40 (c) A new Part N-i is added to read as follows:

41 “Sec. 47-2853.175. Definitions.

42 “As used in this part:

43 “(1) “Board” means the Board of Residential and Commercial Contractors.

44 “(2) “Commercial contractor” means a contractor who acts with regard to all or
45 any part of any real property or appurtenance that is not residential real property.

46 “(3) “Commercial property” shall have the same meaning as § 42–2103(1A).

47 “(4) “Contractor” means any person, firm, partnership, corporation, association,
48 or other organization or entity which, for compensation or with the intent to sell, undertakes or
49 offers to undertake, or submits a bid to construct, alter, repair, add to, subtract from, improve,
50 move, wreck or demolish any building, highway, road, railroad, excavation or other structure,
51 project, development or improvement.

52 “(5) “Residential contractor” means a contractor acting with regard to all or any
53 part of a residential real property or appurtenance.

54 “(6) “Residential real property” means:

55 “(A) A single-family residential dwelling or unit, including a
56 condominium, cooperative unit, townhouse, or rowhouse; or

57 “(B) Improved real estate that consists of two residential units or more.

58 “Sec. 47-2853.176. Scope of practice for residential and commercial contractors.

59 “For purposes of this part, the practice of residential contracting or commercial
60 contracting shall not include construction work on electrical systems, elevators, fire protection
61 systems, refrigeration or air conditioning systems, or any other work that requires a specific trade
62 license issued by the Board of Industrial Trades pursuant to Subchapter I-B.

63 “Sec. 47-2853.178. Necessity for license; exemptions.

64 “(a) No person may engage in the District in any activity as a commercial contractor or
65 residential contractor, or submit a bid to perform work as a commercial contractor or residential
66 contractor, as defined in § 47-2853.175, unless that person holds an applicable license issued
67 under the provisions of this part.

68 “(b) The following are exempt from licensure:

69 “(1) Work done exclusively by employees of the United States government or the
70 District of Columbia;

71 “(2) The sale or installation of a finished product, material or article, or
72 merchandise which is not actually fabricated into and does not become a permanent fixed part of
73 the structure;

74 “(3) A material supplier who renders advice concerning use of products sold and
75 who does not provide construction or installation services;

76 “(4) Work performed by an employer’s employees, for which the employees are
77 paid regular wages and not a contract price, on commercial property or residential real property
78 owned or leased by the employer which is not intended for speculative sale or lease;

79 “(5) Work performed by a public utility, as defined in § 34-214;

80 “(6) Work performed directly under the supervision of a licensed residential or
81 commercial contractor when the work is performed by:

82 “(A) A student in good standing and enrolled in a public or private
83 institution of higher education;

84 “(B) A student enrolled in a career or technical education program; or

85 “(C) An apprentice; or

86 “(7) Work personally performed on a residential real property by the owner or
87 occupant thereof.

88 “Sec. 47-2853.177. Eligibility criteria.

89 “(a) An applicant for licensure as a commercial contractor or residential contractor shall
90 establish to the satisfaction of the Board of that the applicant:

91 “(1) Has at least 4,000 hours or 2 years of experience performing home
92 improvement or construction work within the last six years; or

93 “(2) Has comparable experience or a combination of education and experience
94 that the Board deems equivalent to the above; and

95 “(3) Such additional evidence as the Board determines is necessary.”.

96 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

97 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
98 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
99 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

100 Sec. 4. Effective date.

101 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
102 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as

103 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
104 24, 1973, (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
105 Columbia Register.