

The Connecticut General Assembly



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BARAM LEADS PASSAGE OF BILL FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS *Liability Insurance, Consumer Complaint Study Mandated*

As co-chairman of the General Law Committee, Rep. David Baram (D-Bloomfield, Windsor) on Thursday led the House passage of legislation requiring home improvement contractors to obtain liability insurance coverage.

The legislation, House Bill No. 5785 as amended, An Act Concerning Insurance and Testing Requirements For Home Improvement Contractors, was passed by a vote of 140-2. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration where it is expected to win approval.

The legislation also requires the commissioner of Consumer Protection agency to study and report on enforcement and complaint procedures involving registered home improvement contractors.

“This is a great consumer bill that will help protect homeowners who hire contractors who may cause damage to their homes,” Baram said. “It gives consumers another option to seek compensation for their damages, which in many instances may be easier than making a claim against the Home Improvement Guaranty Fund or filing a lawsuit.”

This legislation prohibits the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) commissioner from issuing a home improvement contractor registration to anyone who has not affirmatively indicated that he or she has and will maintain general commercial liability insurance coverage.

The bill also requires the commissioner, or his designee, to make available certain written material on home improvement contractor requirements and related laws to anyone applying for or renewing a home improvement contractor registration. It requires all initial and renewal applicants to sign a statement indicating that they will review the

material. The material must be published by DCP and available at no cost. It may be posted online.