

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
1998 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-51-1998

Chapter No. _____

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Hendershot

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Air Conditioning, Refrigeration, and Heating Servicing

3 For the purpose of restricting licensed persons performing gas company customer service from
 4 selling additional service and equipment under certain conditions and making technical
 5 amendments.

6 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

7 SUBTITLE 2A. AIR CONDITIONING, REFRIGERATION,
 8 AND HEATING SERVICE.

9 Sections 2A-102 and 2A-112,
 10 The Prince George's County Code
 11 (1995 Edition, 1996 Supplement).

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
 13 Maryland, that Sections 2A-102 and 2A-112 of the Prince George's County Code be and the
 14 same are hereby repealed and reenacted with the following amendments:

SUBTITLE 2A. AIR CONDITIONING, REFRIGERATION, AND
HEATING SERVICE.

Sec. 2A-102. Definitions.

18 (a) The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this
 19 Subtitle:

20 (1) **Air conditioning.** The process by which the temperature, humidity, movement,
 21 and quality of air in buildings and structures are controlled and maintained.

1 (2) **Alter.** The addition to, relocation, or removal of any equipment or refrigerant in a
2 refrigerating, air conditioning, heating, or mechanical ventilation system.

3 (3) **Approved Drain.** A receptacle intended to receive and discharge water, liquid,
4 or water-carried wastes into a drainage system with which it is connected.

5 (4) **Board.** The refrigeration, air conditioning, and heating licensing board
6 established under Section 2A-106 [of this Subtitle].

7 (5) **Contractor.** Any person, firm, or corporation holding itself out to the public to
8 engage in the business of installing, maintaining, repairing, or replacing refrigeration, air
9 conditioning, heating, or mechanical ventilation equipment. A contractor may be an individual
10 licensed as a master refrigeration, air conditioning, and heating mechanic; or master refrigeration
11 and air conditioning specialist; or master heating specialist; or a partnership or corporation, one
12 of whose employees holds one of the master licenses.

13 (6) **Director.** The Director of the Office of Business and Regulatory Affairs or the
14 Director's duly authorized representative.

15 (7) **Electrical disconnecting means.** A device, group of devices, or other means
16 whereby the conductors of a circuit can be disconnected from their source of supply.

17 (8) **Gas Cock.** A cut-off valve to stop the flow of gas to any equipment.

18 (8.1) Gas company customer service response means a maintenance, investigative,
19 or remedial action undertaken by a person licensed under the provisions of this Subtitle on behalf
20 of a gas company, as defined under Article 78 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, with respect
21 to:

22 (A) maintaining or repairing gas company equipment located on the customer's
23 premises; or

24 (B) responding to a gas leak, equipment malfunction, or other safety-related or
25 service-related problem on the customer's premises.

26 (9) **Heating specialist.** A person licensed under the provisions of the code to install,
27 alter or repair heating systems and mechanical ventilation systems incidental thereto.

28 (10) **Installation or installing.** The placement of equipment in position, ready for
29 operation.

30 (11) **License.** A certificate issued by the Director upon approval by the Board,
31 enabling its holder to engage in the business of refrigeration, air conditioning and heating

contracting, or to engage in the occupation of master refrigeration, air conditioning and heating mechanic, master refrigeration and air conditioning specialist, or master heating specialist.

(12) **Master Refrigeration and air conditioning specialist.** A person licensed under the provisions of the code to install, alter, or repair refrigeration or air conditioning systems and mechanical ventilation systems incidental thereto.

(12.1) **Minor repairs or adjustments** means repairs of adjustments to customer-owned facilities or equipment customarily performed by a gas company at no charge or at nominal charge incident to providing gas service.

(13) **Persons.** Any individual, firm, partnership, association, or corporation of any kind.

(14) **Refrigerant.** The medium used to produce cooling or refrigeration by the process of expansion or vaporization.

(15) **Refrigeration.** The process of extracting heat through:

- (A) The compression and evaporation of a gas;
- (B) The evaporation of a liquid;
- (C) The absorption of a liquid or vapor; or
- (D) By electrical means.

(16) **Self-contained unit system.** A complete factory made and factory tested refrigeration or air conditioning or heating system which is fabricated and assembled in a suitable frame or enclosure, including all components necessary for the proper operation of the system, in which no part containing refrigerant is connected in the field, and which is deemed to be an appliance under the National Electrical Code.

(17) **Shut-off valve.** A cut-off to stop the flow of water from the public water supply.

(18) **Ton of refrigeration.** The unit of capacity of refrigeration equivalent to the removal of heat at the rate of twelve thousand (12,000) B.T.U. per hour.

(19) **Ventilation.** The process of supplying or removing air by natural or mechanical means to or from any space. Such air may or may not have been conditioned.

Sec. 2A-112. Performance standards.

(a) **Original installations.**

(1) A person licensed under this [code] Code to engage or be employed in the business of installing, maintaining, repairing, and replacing refrigeration, air conditioning, and

1 heating equipment shall, for original installation of such equipment, be limited to connecting
2 equipment to:

3 (A) The disconnecting means required for each motor, such means to be located
4 within sight of each such motor, be readily accessible thereto, and be not more than fifty (50)
5 feet from it;

6 (B) All electrical wiring on the load side of such disconnecting means.

7 (2) The distance between the equipment and the electrical disconnect means shall be
8 measured without regard to any intervening object other than a wall or partition. Each such
9 disconnect shall have been installed in accordance with the provisions of Subtitle 9 of the [Prince
10 George's] County Code [of Ordinances and Resolutions]. An electrical permit may be issued to
11 refrigeration, air conditioning, heating or refrigeration, air conditioning or heating specialty
12 contractors, upon payment of regular fees for inspection of power wiring from the disconnect
13 means, and all other control wiring.

14 (b) **Maintenance and Repair Work.**

15 (1) A person licensed under this [code] Code to engage in the business of installing,
16 maintaining, repairing, and replacing refrigeration, air conditioning, and/or heating equipment
17 shall, in connection with such work be limited to maintaining, repairing or replacing the various
18 components of such systems, including, but not limited to compressors, motors, controls, duct
19 work and condensers.

20 (2) The limit of electrical repairs shall be from the disconnect means furnished for
21 each motor location, including the replacement of branch circuit wiring on the load side of such
22 disconnect means.

23 (c) **Replacement.**

24 (1) Whenever any existing component or any refrigeration, air conditioning or
25 heating system is replaced by a component of larger size or capacity, which would consume a
26 larger amount of electricity, require the enlargement of the branch circuit wiring, require an
27 increase in the capacity of disconnect means, or any other enlargement or increase in the capacity
28 of any component of such system, all the replacement work required shall be subject to the
29 limitation established by Section 2A-112(b) [of the Subtitle].

30 (d) **Installation of New Equipment in Existing Systems.**

31 (1) The work required in connection with the installation of new equipment added to

1 an existing system shall be subject to the limitations set forth in Section 2A-112(a), (b), and (c)
2 [of this Subtitle].

3 (e) **Maintenance and repair work on behalf of a regulated gas company.**

4 (1) A person licensed under this Code, who performs gas company customer service
5 response may not perform work for the customer other than minor repairs or adjustments to
6 customer-owned equipment and facilities for a period of at least sixty days following the date of
7 the gas company customer service response.

8 (2) A person licensed under this Code, who performs gas company customer service
9 response may not solicit any further repair, maintenance or installation work or offer to sell any
10 equipment, appliances or services to the customer for a period of at least sixty days following
11 the date of the gas company customer service response.

12 (3) A person licensed under this Code, who performs gas company customer service
13 response may not charge the customer any fees for performing minor repairs or adjustments to
14 customer-owned equipment and facilities.

15 (4) If a person licensed under this Code, who performs gas company customer service
16 response determines that work on customer equipment or facilities is needed, other than minor
17 repairs or adjustments, the person performing the gas company customer service response may
18 not recommend or otherwise refer a customer to any person in which the person performing the
19 gas company customer service response has a financial interest or from which the person derives
20 a direct or indirect financial benefit.

21 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45)
22 calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 1998.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Ronald V. Russell
Chairman

ATTEST:

Joyce T. Sweeney
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Wayne K. Curry
County Executive

KEY:
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.