

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2025 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-084-2025

Chapter No. _____

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Oriadha

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Senior Protections and Door-to-Door Solicitation

3 For the purpose of amending the requirements for licensing, bonding, and operational conduct of
4 door-to-door solicitors; establishing definitions for high-risk industries and seniors; requiring
5 criminal background checks and mandatory consumer protection and elder fraud awareness
6 training for certain applicants; increasing bond amounts for high-risk industries; requiring senior
7 consumer rights disclosures; ~~creating a No Solicitation Registry and prohibiting solicitation of~~
8 ~~registered properties;~~ establishing a Solicitation Protection Rapid Response Force to investigate
9 violations and conduct public outreach; and providing enhanced penalties for violations,
10 including specific protections for seniors and restrictions on repeat offenders.

11 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

12 SUBTITLE 5. BUSINESSES AND LICENSES.

13 Sections 5-201, 5-203, 5-205, 5-206, 5-207.04, 5-
14 207.05, and 5-207.09

15 The Prince George's County Code
16 (2023 Edition; 2024 Supplement).

17 BY adding:

18 SUBTITLE 5. BUSINESSES AND LICENSES.

19 Sections ~~5-207.10 and~~ 5-207.11

20 The Prince George's County Code
21 (2023 Edition; 2024 Supplement).

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that Sections 5-201, 5-203, 5-205 5-206, 5-207.04, 5-207.05, and 5-207.09 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same are hereby repealed and reenacted with the following amendments:

SUBTITLE 5. BUSINESSES AND LICENSES.

DIVISION 15. DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS.

Sec. 5-201. Definitions.

(a) For purposes of this Division, the following words shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this Section, except where the context clearly requires otherwise:

(1) **Commercial establishment** shall include integrated shopping centers, shopping centers and shopping center parking lots.

(2) **Director** means the Director of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement or the Director's duly authorized representative.

(3) **High-risk industry** means any industry involved in:

(A) heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC),

(B) roofing,

(C) solar installation,

(D) any industry the Director designates as a high-risk industry.

(4) **Senior** means any person aged sixty-five (65) or older

(5) [3] **Solicitor of a commercial establishment** means any person who goes from place-to-place or door-to-door visiting any commercial establishment for the purpose of:

(A) Selling or accepting subscriptions or orders for any goods, wares, merchandise, or services for the personal use, benefit, or pleasure of the owner or employees and not related to the business of the commercial establishment; or

(B) accepting or requesting donations for any charitable purpose.

(6) [4] **Solicitor of a residential dwelling** means any person who goes from place-to-place, house-to-house, or door-to-door visiting any residential dwelling for the purpose of:

(A) Selling or accepting subscriptions or orders for any goods, wares, merchandise, or services for the personal use, benefit or pleasure of the owner or residents; or

(B) Accepting or requesting donations for any charitable purpose.

(7) **The Division** means the Division of Aging and Disability under the Department of

Social Services.

SUBTITLE 5. BUSINESSES AND LICENSES.

DIVISION 15. DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS.

Sec 5-203. Application; door-to-door solicitor's license.

(a) Application for a solicitor's license shall be made upon a form prescribed by the Director.

(b) In addition to such other information as the Director may reasonably deem necessary for purposes of the implementation, administration and enforcement of this Division, the application shall state or be accompanied by the following:

(1) The name, local and permanent address, age, weight, height, color of hair and eyes, and any other distinguishing physical characteristics of the applicant;

(2) The nature or purpose for which solicitations will be made and the nature of the goods, wares, service, and/or merchandise offered for sale;

(3) The name and address of the applicant's employer and/or organization represented; and if the organization is a "charitable organization," as defined by Title 6, Business Regulation Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, a statement that the organization has complied with the requirements of Title 6, Business Regulation Article, Annotated Code of Maryland;

(4) Two prints of a recent and clear photograph, 2" × 2" in size, showing the head and shoulders of the applicant;

(5) If a vehicle is to be used in connection with soliciting, a description of the same, together with the license tag number and the State in which the vehicle is registered;

(6) A statement as to whether the applicant has ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, and; if so, the nature of the offense, when and where convicted, and the penalty or punishment imposed therefor;

(7) The names of at least two (2) references, unrelated to the applicant, who will certify as to the applicant's good character and business responsibility; and,

(8) The name and address of a person resident in the County designated by the applicant as authorized to accept all lawful processes in any action or proceeding instituted, filed, or pending against the applicant with respect to the application of any provision of this Division.

(c) The applicant, at the discretion of the Director, shall be required to supply the credentials of the business to be represented and evidence of the applicant's authorization to

1 represent such business. Said credentials shall include evidence that said business has complied
 2 with all State and local laws applicable to or governing the operations and conduct of said
 3 business, including, but not limited to, the requirements of Article 23 of the Annotated Code of
 4 Maryland.

5 (d) The applicant, at the discretion of the Director, shall be required to furnish a copy of the
 6 receipt or contract to be used in the course of solicitation to assure compliance with Section 5-
 7 207.04 of this Division.

8 (e) Any applicant engaged in a high-risk industry will be subject to:

9 (1) A criminal background check **AND FINGERPRINTING THROUGH THE**
 10 **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**
 11 **(DPSCS). THE APPLICANT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL COSTS OF SERVICES.**

12 (2) Mandatory consumer protection and elder fraud awareness training, administered
 13 by **DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES The Division** or through a course approved by
 14 **DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES The Division.**

15 (f) [e] Every application shall be signed and certified that the information given thereon is
 16 true and correct. The signature shall be that of the applicant.

17 **SUBTITLE 5. BUSINESSES AND LICENSES.**

18 **DIVISION 15. DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS.**

19 **Section 5-205. License: description; to be carried on person.**

20 (a) A license issued pursuant to this Division shall show the name and address of the
 21 solicitor, the name and address of the business to be represented, the date of issuance and
 22 expiration of the license, **a quick response code (QR code) that verifies the licensee,** and one (1)
 23 of the photographs submitted by the licensee shall be attached to the license.

24 (b) Every licensee shall carry his license with him at all times while engaged in soliciting
 25 and shall display said license to the prospective buyer prior to making any solicitation. Every
 26 licensee shall permit any person, upon request, to personally inspect his license, including any
 27 police officer or County inspector of licenses who makes such request.

28 (c) It shall be within the discretion of the Director to allow a person, partnership or
 29 corporation soliciting within the County to design its own badge to be worn by all its employees
 30 and agents located in the County; provided, that:

31 (1) All such badges are first submitted to and approved by the Director.

(2) One design is used for all such employees and agents.

(3) The badge contains such information as required by the Director, including, but not limited to, the name of the licensee, the name of principal, expiration date, and a disclaimer stating that possession does not constitute endorsement by the County.

(4) The said principal thereby immediately assumes responsibility to secure proper distribution of the license and its return upon expiration.

(5) Any unauthorized use thereof, or fraud or misrepresentation perpetuated by the use thereof in any unauthorized manner, is actionable against the person undertaking such distribution.

(d) No license shall be valid unless it bears the signature of the Director or his lawful designate and has his official seal affixed thereto.

SUBTITLE 5. BUSINESSES AND LICENSES.

DIVISION 15. DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS.

Section 5-206. License; bond required

(a) As a condition precedent to the issuance of a license under this Division, every person required to be licensed under this Division shall deliver to the Director a receipt for a cash bond received from the County Director of Finance or a corporate bond executed by a surety company qualified to do business in the State of Maryland in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) or Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) if the licensee is engaged in a high-risk industry.

(b) In lieu of the individual bond specified in subsection (a), above, the Director may accept a bond filed by a person, partnership, or corporation which shall cover one (1) or more employees or agents of such person, partnership, or corporation soliciting in the County, and which fulfills the requirements of Subsection (a), above.

(c) That cash or corporate bond shall run to the County and shall be conditioned that the licensee shall:

(1) Pay any judgment rendered against him by a court of competent jurisdiction as a result of services rendered or not rendered, or materials supplied in connection with the contract of solicitation; and,

(2) Comply fully with all provisions of the laws and ordinances of the County and such statutes of the State regulating and concerning the business of soliciting and guaranteeing to any citizen of the County doing business with such solicitor that the property or goods purchased

1 shall be delivered according to the representations of the solicitor.

2 (d) Any person who has been awarded a final judgment from any court of competent
3 jurisdiction as a result of services rendered by a person required to be licensed under this
4 Division shall have a right of action against such bond for the recovery of money, damages, or
5 both, in any court of competent jurisdiction. In the event that the judgment is not satisfied after
6 the judgment holder has made reasonable efforts to execute on the judgment, the County, on
7 behalf of the judgment holder, may make demand on the surety company for the maximum
8 amount of the bond or the amount of the judgment obtained plus interest and costs, whichever is
9 less.

10 (e) Cash bonds shall be deposited with the County Director of Finance and he shall issue
11 duplicate receipts therefor. Such cash bonds shall be maintained by the County Director of
12 Finance in a special interest bearing account for three (3) years after the date of expiration of the
13 license or the date of the expiration of any renewal period for which such bond was deposited by
14 the licensee. If the County Director of Finance is notified in writing that a suit has been filed
15 against any such licensee as a result of which a judgment may be payable out of such cash bond,
16 the County Director of Finance shall retain such cash bond until such time as such suit has been
17 reduced to judgment and the period for filing an appeal from such judgment has expired or the
18 judgment debtor has waived in writing his right to take an appeal or until such time as such suit
19 has otherwise been disposed of.

20 (f) Every person required to be licensed under this Division who has deposited a cash bond
21 with the County Director of Finance shall be entitled to a return of reasonable interest earned on
22 such cash bond by the County in an amount not to exceed four percent (4%) simple interest per
23 annum.

24 (g) The failure of any person licensed under the provisions of this Division to maintain at
25 all times the cash or corporate bond in the amount required by this Section shall constitute
26 grounds for revocation of such person's license by the Director in accordance with the procedures
27 set forth in Section 5-207.01 of this Division. In the case of both cash and corporate bonds, a
28 total amount of not less than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for the aggregate of all claims
29 shall be sufficient to satisfy the bonding requirements of this Section, except that any person
30 engaged in a high-risk industry shall maintain a total amount of not less than Five Thousand
31 Dollars (\$5,000) for the aggregate of all claims.

SUBTITLE 5. BUSINESSES AND LICENSES.

DIVISION 15. DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS.

Section 5-207.04. Solicitation: receipt or copy of contract required; cancellation.

(a) The licensee shall furnish the buyer with a fully completed receipt or copy of any contract pertaining to any sale at the time of execution. It shall include a space for indicating the date of the transaction, the name and address of the licensee, and in immediate proximity to the space reserved in the contract for the signature of the buyer or on the front page of the contract, a statement informing the buyer of his right to cancel the transaction at any time prior to midnight of the third (3rd) business day after the date of the transaction. The notice of cancellation shall be by writing or telegram at the licensee's place of business and shall be signed and dated by the buyer.

(b) The licensee shall furnish the buyer with a senior consumer rights disclosure form that shall be created by the DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES Director. The DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES Director shall make these forms available to all licensees. The DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES' Director's senior consumer rights disclosure shall contain but not limited to:

(1) The right for seniors to cancel within seven (7) business days.

(2) A hotline number to report fraud or undue pressure to the Director.

(2) (3) checklist of suggested safeguards for seniors.

(3) (4) A signature line confirming receipt and understanding by the senior.

SUBTITLE 5. BUSINESSES AND LICENSES.

DIVISION 15. DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS.

Section 5-207.05. Prohibited acts.

(a) No licensee shall:

(1) Remain in a private residence or commercial establishment or on the premises thereof after the owner or occupant has requested the licensee to leave; or,

(2) Enter into or upon the premises of a private residence or commercial establishment for soliciting, when the owner or occupant thereof has displayed a "No Soliciting" sign on such premises; or,

(3) Enter upon residential premises for soliciting during nighttime. Nighttime is defined in Section 1-102(a)(18) of this Code.

~~(4) Engage in soliciting on any property that has been opted into the no soliciting registry as described in Section 5-207.10.~~

SUBTITLE 5. BUSINESSES AND LICENSES.

DIVISION 15. DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS.

Section 5-207.09. Penalty for violations of act.

(a) Any person required to be licensed under this Division who acts in the capacity of a door-to-door solicitor without first having obtained a license, or continues to act after a license has been denied, suspended, or revoked, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or incarceration up to six (6) months in jail, or both such fine and imprisonment.

(b) Any person in violation of Section 5-207.04 shall be subject to:

(1) One Thousand Dollars \$1,000 for a first offense

(2) Three Thousand Dollars \$3,000 for a second offense.

(3) Five Thousand Dollars \$5,000 for a third offense, revocation of license, and imprisonment not to exceed six (6) months.

(c) Any person in violation of Section 5-207.05 ~~except section 5-207.05(a)(4)~~ shall be subject to a fine of:

(1) One Thousand Dollars \$1,000 for a first offense

(2) Three Thousand Dollars \$3,000 for a second offense.

(3) Five Thousand Dollars \$5,000 for a third offense, revocation of license, and imprisonment not to exceed six (6) months.

~~(d) Any person in violation of Section 5-207.05(a)(4) shall be subject to a fine of:~~

~~(1) Two Thousand Dollars \$2,000 for a first offense.~~

~~(2) Three Thousand Dollars \$3,000 for a second offense.~~

~~(3) Five Thousand Dollars \$5,000 for a third offense, revocation of license, and imprisonment not to exceed six (6) months.~~

~~(d)~~ (e) Any person found to have deceived or defrauded a senior through door-to-door solicitation shall be subject to a Five Thousand Dollar \$5,000 fine and imprisonment not to exceed six (6) months.

~~(f) Any business with more than two violations of section 5-207.09(d) in a calendar year shall be banned from soliciting within the County for five (5) years.~~

SECTION 2. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that Sections ~~5-207.10 and~~ 5-207.11 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same ~~IS~~ are hereby added:

SUBTITLE 5. BUSINESSES AND LICENSES.

DIVISION 15. DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS.

Section 5-207.10. No Solicitation Registry

~~The Division shall create and maintain a registry allowing senior County residents to elect to prohibit all in-person solicitation. The No Solicitation Registry shall permit residents to register their property using a form created by The Division, which may be completed online or submitted by mail. The Division shall also establish a dedicated hotline through which residents may register their property. The Division shall make the registry accessible to all licensees, listing the properties of residents who have opted out of in-person solicitation.~~

SUBTITLE 5. BUSINESSES AND LICENSES.

DIVISION 15. DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS.

Section 5-207.11 Solicitation Protection Rapid Response Force

(a) The Director shall establish a Solicitation Protection Rapid Response Force to investigate reports of potential violations of Division 15. The Rapid Response Force shall respond within three (3) business days of receiving a report, conduct an on-site inspection, and provide follow-up to the reporting County resident. The Director shall maintain records documenting the response time for each report and the outcome of the investigation.

(b) The ~~DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES~~ ~~Division~~ shall also direct the Solicitation Protection Rapid Response Force to establish a public outreach initiative on consumer protections. The ~~DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES~~ ~~Division~~ shall create the guidelines and partner with senior-serving organizations for the public outreach initiative.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection,

1 or section.

2 SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2025.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Edward P. Burroughs III
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Aisha N. Braveboy
County Executive

KEY:

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.

[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.

Asterisks *** indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.

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