

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2015**

Bill Number: H.483 Name of Bill: Home Improvement Fraud

Agency/Dept: VSP / Middlesex Author of Bill Det. Sgt. Tara Thomas  
Review: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Bill Review: 3/18/15 Status of Bill: (check one):

☒ Upon Introduction ☐ As passed by 1<sup>st</sup> body ☐ As passed by both bodies

Recommended Position:

☒ Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Remain Neutral ☐ Support with modifications identified in # 8 below

**Analysis of Bill**

**1. Summary of bill and issue it addresses.**

This bill proposes to amend the criminal home improvement fraud statute to clarify that a contractor's failure to perform work together with the conversion of the owner's money to his or her own use is a criminal violation covered by this statute.

**2. Is there a need for this bill?**

Yes.

**3. What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?**

None.

**4. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?**

None.

**5. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it? (for example, public, municipalities, organizations, business, regulated entities, etc)**

None.

**6. Other Stakeholders:**

**6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why?** Civilians who hire contractors. To eliminate the vulnerability a consumer has when their knowledge of contracting jobs is limited. Encourages more contractors to lock into "contracts" and not sway from it in an effort for personal gain (e.g. using consumer's money to purchase tools, work trailers, etc.)

*Please return this bill review as a Microsoft Word or PDF document to [laura.gray@state.vt.us](mailto:laura.gray@state.vt.us)*

**6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why?** I don't foresee honest contractors and civilians opposing this bill.

**7. Rationale for recommendation:** It is recommended that Law Enforcement agencies support this bill. This bill encourages consumers and contractors to negotiate a financial agreement and to render work agreed upon. This bill would help eliminate a contractor's business to benefiting from hidden out of pocket expenses to the consumer as well as unreasonable time to complete a job for hire. This bill would also force contractors to credit the consumer for any unused material, in hopes the contractor is not billing two separate clients for material that was already paid for by the first consumer. This bill aids in contractors giving more accurate estimates to consumers.

**8. Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill:** *Not meant to rewrite bill, but rather, an opportunity to identify simple modifications that would change recommended position.*  
None.

**Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Laura Gray", is written over a faint rectangular stamp.

**Date:** 4/6/15