

under separate provisions of State or local law; nor shall any license or authority other than as is issued or permitted pursuant to this subtitle authorize engaging in the home improvement business in Maryland.

(c) Nothing in this subtitle may be construed to limit or restrict the power of a city or county to regulate the quality, performance, or character of work of contractors including a system of permits and inspections which are designed to secure compliance with and aid in the enforcement of applicable state and local building laws, or to enforce other laws necessary for the protection of the public health and safety. Nothing in this subtitle limits the power of a city or county to adopt any system of permits requiring submission to and approval by the city or county of plans and specifications for an installation prior to the commencement of construction of the installation or of inspection of work done; provided that nothing in this section may be construed as authorizing a city or county to enact ordinances or regulations relating to the qualifications necessary to engage in the home improvement business.

(d) This subtitle shall not apply to the official transactions of an authorized representative of the United States of America or an instrumentality thereof, of any state, District of Columbia or territory of the United States, any city or county thereof, or any instrumentality of a state or political subdivision thereof.

248. General Penalty

Any person who knowingly and wilfully violates any provision of this subtitle, with respect to which a greater penalty is not otherwise provided by the provisions of this subtitle or by any other law, in addition to any administrative penalty otherwise applicable thereto, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof by a court of competent jurisdiction of this State shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 6 months or both.

249. Definitions

(a) For purposes of this subtitle:

(b) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, corporation, trust, association, owner, contractor, salesman, or any other legal entity.

(c) "Home Improvement" means the repair, replacement, remodeling, alteration, conversion, modernization, improvement, or addition to any land or building, or that portion thereof which is used or designed to be used as a residence or dwelling place; and shall include the construction, replacement, or improvement of driveways, swimming pools, porches, garages, landscaping, fences, and other improvements to structures or upon land which is adjacent to a dwelling house. "Home Improvement" shall not include ~~(1)~~ (i) the construction of a new home building or work done by a contractor in compliance with a guarantee of completion of a new building project, or (ii) the sale of goods or materials by a seller who neither arranges to perform nor performs directly or indirectly any work or labor in connection with the installation of or