BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Environment Section 6–801(m) Annotated Code of Maryland (2007 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Real Property Section 8–215 Annotated Code of Maryland (2003 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

## Preamble

WHEREAS, Childhood lead poisoning is a major public health threat in Maryland, poisoning over 1,300 children in Maryland as of 2005; and

WHEREAS, Lead poisoning severely and irreversibly impacts the cognitive and physical development of young children; and

WHEREAS, The Governor and the State have endorsed plans to meet the federal strategy to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by 2010; and

WHEREAS, Children are exposed to lead through ingesting and inhaling lead dust, eating lead paint chips, or absorbing lead while in utero; and

WHEREAS, Most of the exposures to lead can be eliminated by removing lead hazards and reducing exposure to toxic lead dust in the home; and

WHEREAS, Although the number of cases of childhood lead poisoning in Maryland has decreased significantly over the past few years, lead paint remains a significant health issue; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

## Article - Business Regulation

8-301.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this title, a person must have a contractor license whenever the person acts as a contractor in the State.