

House Bill 291

Natural Resources—Tree Experts— Prohibition

Environmental Matters Committee
February 12, 2014

Doctors Don't Share Licenses.

Neither Do Cosmetologists, Fishermen or Motorists.

- ***Why Should Tree Experts Be Able To Share Licenses?***

Why Do We Need HB291?

Some Maryland Licensed Tree Experts "share" their licenses with unlicensed companies, basically renting their licenses out for a fee. *HB291 Stops This Practice.*

- **Just because someone says he can treat or remove a tree more than 20 feet tall doesn't mean he is qualified, licensed and insured, as required by the state.**
- **If property is damaged or someone is injured, a Licensed Tree Expert's insurance will cover it. With unlicensed workers, the homeowner may be assuming the risk.**

HB291 Protects Workers, Homeowners and Their Property



Would you want to pay for this?

- **In November, a contractor was killed when a falling tree crushed him in a home's backyard just outside Annapolis. He happened to work for a legitimate licensed and insured business.**
- **According to the Department of Natural Resources, arborists have one of the most dangerous jobs in the state—even more so than police.**

Tree Work Is A Hazardous Business. People Get Killed.



- Maryland has a consumer protection law requiring individuals or businesses who advertise or do paid work on trees more than 20 feet tall to be Licensed Tree Experts.
- To earn a license, the applicant either must have worked 5 years under a Licensed Tree Expert or obtained 2 years related college education and worked 1 year under a Licensed Tree Expert.
- Then they must pass an exam and carry adequate liability and property damage insurance.
- *Unfortunately, the process is broken, and some licensees share—or rent out—their licenses to those who have not met the requirements.*

What Is Current Law?

- **HB291 levels the playing field for legitimate, licensed companies that now must compete with tree cutters who “rent” licenses.**
- **HB291 bans license sharing through the following language:**
 - ***“A Licensed Tree Expert may not supervise more than one company that provides tree expert services.”***

Please support HB291, which fixes the broken process & protects consumers and workers.