

## **SUMMARY OF HB 301 ROOFING CONTRACTORS LICENSING BILL**

HB 301 creates a new division of the existing State Construction Industry Licensing Board, to be known as the Division of Roofing Contractors.

This bill is intended to protect Georgia homeowners and businesses, who are regularly victimized by “fly-by-night” roofers. Often from our neighboring states, all of which have strict licensing requirements, they come to Georgia because our lack of regulation allows them to prey on the unwary. After every natural disaster in our state, whether a hurricane on the coast or the recent destructive tornado in Adairsville, unqualified roofers descend on Georgia to take advantage of the victims, making easy money doing shoddy work, or taking deposits and doing no work at all. Like our surrounding states, it is time Georgia stopped these unscrupulous operators by imposing the same type of licensing we require of plumbers, electricians, contractors, and other construction trades.

Under HB 301,

- Corporations and other entities will be licensed based upon the qualifications of at least one of their owners or employees. The license is good for two years. Employees of roofing contractors need not be licensed if their employer holds a roofing contractor license.
- Applicants must demonstrate to the Division that: 1) they have a written safety plan, 2) they have the competency, ability and integrity required to perform the roofing contracting business, 3) they are financially sound and responsible, and 4) they have general liability and workers comp insurance. Renewal applicants must take up to four hours of continuing education in safety, technical, business management and government regulation fields
- Georgia roofing contractors with at least two years of experience can be grandfathered in without taking an examination, provided they meet the other requirements of the law

- Licensed residential and general contractors will not need an additional license do roofing at their projects. Other groups that need not be licensed are
  - Homeowners
  - Maintenance workers at a business
  - Farm and ranch employees for service buildings
  - Regular full-time employees of a business at the business.
  - GDOT employees roofing department facilities.
  - Municipal and utility employees at their own facilities.

The bill adds regulation of roofing and roofing contractors to the general powers of the existing State Construction Industry Licensing Board. Five members are added to comprise the roofing contractor board. Three members will be roofing contractors, one a professional engineer or architect, and one a county or municipal chief building inspector.