Dear Registrant,

During the 2025 Legislative Session, the Montana Legislature passed <u>HB 225</u>, impacting home inspector registration.

What's Changing and When:

Beginning January 1st, 2026, the home inspector registration program will become a licensing program administered by the Montana Department of Labor & Industry (DLI) and all registered home inspectors will have an individual home inspector license. The bill also changed the following requirements:

- The minimum liability insurance coverage in errors and omissions insurance has been raised from \$100,000 to \$125,000.
- New applicants can no longer use passage of the National Home Inspector Examination as a valid alternative to the 40 hours of comprehensive home inspection instruction.

The Purpose of the Change:

Converting the registration into a license will allow the department to better protect the public by requiring home inspectors to follow the uniform regulations for professional licensing programs under MCA Title 37, Chapter 1, Part 4. It also provides home inspectors with standardized adjudicative procedures, such as requesting a hearing or an appeal, to contest allegations made in a complaint.

What to Expect from this Change:

If you have an existing registration, it will automatically be converted to a license on January 1st, 2026. Home inspectors currently listed on a home inspector business roster will automatically be granted individual home inspector licenses. All individual home inspector licenses must be renewed every two years. The cost to apply or renew has not changed.

Beginning January 1st, 2026, home inspectors will be able to apply and renew electronically through our <u>Citizen Portal</u>. We will send additional updates over the next few months.

If you have any questions about these changes, you may contact department staff at (406) 444-7734.

Stay Informed:

Sign up for our <u>Interested Parties List</u> to get future updates. You can select one or more boards or topics.

As we move forward, we will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of these changes. Our commitment to you remains to ensure that you are included in that process.

Thank you for your continued service to Montanans.

Sarah Swanson Commissioner MT Department of Labor and Industry