



Montana Department of LABOR & INDUSTRY

Dear Registrant,

During the 2025 Legislative Session, the Montana Legislature passed [HB 239](#), a significant, industry-supported reform that strengthens Montana's contractor program and protects contractors, consumers, and the integrity of our trades.

Sponsored by Representative Morgan Thiel and supported by construction professionals across the state, this legislation is designed to level the playing field for legitimate contractors by providing clearer standards, stronger enforcement tools, and meaningful accountability for bad actors who undermine public trust and undercut honest work.

What's Changing and When:

Beginning January 1st, 2026, Montana's contractor registration program will transition to a Contractors License administered by the Montana Department of Labor & Industry (DLI).

Purpose of the Change:

Transitioning to licensure ensures that Montana's construction professionals are provided the same consistency, protections, and due process afforded to other licensed professions in Montana. Specifically, this change will:

- Protect reputable contractors by enabling DLI to more effectively identify and take appropriate action against fraudulent or unlicensed contractors.
- Ensure fairness and consistency through the uniform regulations for professional licensing programs under [MCA Title 37, Chapter 1, Part 4](#).
- Provide contractors with clear due process protections, including standardized adjudicative procedures like requesting a hearing or an appeal to contest any allegations made in a complaint.
- Promote a level playing field statewide, so responsible contractors are not undercut by those who would ignore the rules.

Unprofessional Conduct provisions specific to construction contractors are outlined in statute, and may be reviewed [here](#) on page three. **Please note that DLI does not review or evaluate the quality of a contractor's workmanship when enforcing licensing complaints.** Enforcement authority is limited to conduct defined in law and is focused on protecting the public and licensed contractors from fraud and misrepresentation.

What to Expect Next:

If you have an existing contractor registration, it will automatically be converted to a contractor license on January 1st, 2026. Your expiration date will remain the same. The cost to apply or renew has not changed.



There are multiple exemptions to obtaining a construction contractor license, all of which are currently found in [MCA 39-9-211](#). Independent contractors that do not have employees are among those exempt from obtaining a construction contractor license.

Beginning in 2026, Construction Contractors will be able to apply and renew electronically through our [Citizen Portal](#). DLI will send additional updates over the next several months as we implement this transition.

Stay Informed:

We encourage you to sign up for our [Interested Parties](#) List to receive timely updates on construction contractor licensing, rulemaking, and implementation details.

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

Montana's construction industry is essential to our communities, our economy, and our workforce. HB 239 reflects our commitment to supporting professional contractors, protecting the public, and ensuring that those who play by the rules are not disadvantaged by those who do not.

Thank you for the work you do every day to build Montana!

Sarah Swanson

Commissioner

Montana Department of Labor & Industry