

Bill No. 31-07
Concerning: Real Property – Energy
Performance Audits
Revised: 11/19/07 Draft No. 2
Introduced: November 20, 2007
Expires: May 20, 2009
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: None
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Councilmembers Berliner and Elrich

AN ACT to:

- (1) require that a home energy audit be conducted as a part of a home inspection completed in connection with the sale of a single-family residential building; and
- (2) generally amend the law relating to real property, energy, and environmental policy.

By adding

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 40, Real Property
Section 40-13A

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

1 **Sec. 1. Section 40-13A is added as follows:**

2 **40-13A. Energy performance audits – single family homes.**

3 (a) Definitions. In this Section, the following words have the meanings
 4 indicated:

5 “Department” means the Department of Environmental Protection.

6 “Director” means the Director of the Department or the Director’s
 7 designee.

8 “Home energy audit” means an evaluation of the energy efficiency of a
 9 home which includes:

10 (1) A thermographic scan; and

11 (2) Any other test or diagnostic measurement which the Department
 12 finds necessary to:

13 (A) Ensure that a home’s energy efficiency is accurately
 14 measured; or

15 (B) Identify steps that can be taken to improve a home’s
 16 energy efficiency.

17 “Qualified home energy performance rater” means an individual who:

18 (1) Is certified by RESNET as a home energy performance rater; or

19 (2) Meets other equivalent requirements approved by the Director.

20 “RESNET” means the Residential Energy Services Network.

21 “Single-family home” means a single-family detached or attached
 22 residential building.

23 “Thermographic scan” means a test to detect heat loss and air leakage in
 24 a building using infrared scanning.

25 (b) Home energy audit. If a home inspection is completed in connection
 26 with the sale of a single-family home, the home inspection must include

27 a home energy audit conducted by a qualified home energy performance
 28 rater.

29 (c) Report. The qualified home energy performance rater must prepare a
 30 written report for the buyer before the home is sold which:

31 (1) Contains findings and recommendations for improving the
 32 home's energy efficiency;

33 (2) Identifies energy efficiency improvements which would generate
 34 energy cost savings that would fully or partially fund the cost of
 35 the improvements; and

36 (3) Identifies any public or private financing mechanisms known to
 37 the home energy performance rater that could be used to
 38 implement energy efficiency improvements.

39 (d) Costs. The buyer must pay for the home energy audit unless the seller
 40 agrees to pay for the audit as a condition of a sales contract.

41 (e) Applicability. This Section does not apply to the initial sale of a
 42 covered building under Section 8-54.

43 **Sec. 2. Applicability.**

44 (a) Subject to subsection (b), Section 40-15, as added by Section 1 of this
 45 Act, applies to any sales contract signed on or after January 1, 2009.

46 (b) The Director of the Department of Permitting Services may delay the
 47 applicability of Section 40-15, as added by Section 1 of this Act, for up
 48 to 1 year if the Director finds that:

49 (1) there is an insufficient number of qualified home energy
 50 performance raters doing business in the County on January 1,
 51 2009; or

52 (2) the market rate for a home energy audit is unreasonable.

53 *Approved:*

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56 Marilyn J. Praisner, President, County Council

Date

57 *Approved:*

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Isaih Leggett, County Executive

Date

59 *This is a correct copy of Council action.*

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Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council

Date

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