ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 5-COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND LABOR

(ON BEHALF OF THE STATE CONTRACTORS' BOARD)

Prefiled October 29, 2024

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing contractors who perform work on residential photovoltaic systems used to produce electricity. (BDR 54-253)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State: No.

EXPLANATION - Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets formitted material; is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to contractors; requiring, rather than authorizing the State Contractors' Board to require, a contractor who performs work concerning a residential photovoltaic system used to produce electricity to obtain a performance bond and payment bond before commencing the work; revising requirements for such bonds; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes the State Contractors' Board to require a contractor who performs work concerning a residential photovoltaic system used to produce electricity, before commencing the work, to obtain a performance bond and payment bond in an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the amount of the contract if the contractor: (1) is determined by the Board to have committed certain violations; (2) enters into a contract that is later voided by the owner of the singlefamily residence on which the work is performed; or (3) has five valid complaints filed against him or her with the Board within a 15-day period. (NRS 624.270) Rather than authorizing the Board to require a contractor who performs work concerning a residential photovoltaic system used to produce electricity to obtain a performance bond and payment bond before commencing the work only under certain circumstances, section 1 of this bill instead requires all contractors who perform work concerning a residential photovoltaic system used to produce electricity to obtain a performance bond and payment bond before commencing the work. Section 1 also increases the amount of each of the required bonds to an amount equal to not less than 100 percent of the amount of the contract. Section 1





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additionally requires the bonds to be issued by a surety which is included in the United States Department of the Treasury's Listing of Approved Sureties.

Section 2 of this bill provides that the revised requirements for bonds set forth in section 1 do not apply to a contractor whose license authorizing the contractor to perform work concerning a residential photovoltaic system used to produce electricity was issued before July 1, 2025, until the date on which the license is renewed, unless the contractor: (1) is determined by the Board to have committed certain violations; (2) enters into a contract on or after July 1, 2025, that is later voided by the owner of the single-family residence on which the work is performed; or (3) has five valid complaints filed against him or her with the Board within a 15-day period.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- **Section 1.** NRS 624.270 is hereby amended to read as follows: 624.270 1. Before issuing a contractor's license to any applicant, the Board shall require that the applicant:
- (a) File with the Board a surety bond in a form acceptable to the Board executed by the contractor as principal with a corporation authorized to transact surety business in the State of Nevada as surety; or
- (b) In lieu of such a bond, establish with the Board a cash deposit as provided in this section.
- 2. Before granting renewal of a contractor's license to any applicant, the Board shall require that the applicant file with the Board satisfactory evidence that the applicant's surety bond or cash deposit is in full force, unless the applicant has been relieved of the requirement as provided in this section.
- 3. Failure of an applicant or licensee to file or maintain in full force the required bond or to establish the required cash deposit constitutes cause for the Board to deny, revoke, suspend or refuse to renew a license.
- 4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, the amount of each bond or cash deposit required by this section must be fixed by the Board with reference to the contractor's financial and professional responsibility and the magnitude of the contractor's operations, but must be not less than \$1,000 or more than \$500,000. The bond must be continuous in form and must be conditioned that the total aggregate liability of the surety for all claims is limited to the face amount of the bond irrespective of the number of years the bond is in force. A bond required by this section must be provided by a person whose long-term debt obligations are rated "A" or better by a nationally recognized rating agency. The Board may increase or reduce the amount of any bond or cash deposit if evidence supporting such a change in the amount is presented to the Board at





the time application is made for renewal of a license or at any hearing conducted pursuant to NRS 624.2545 or 624.291. Unless released earlier pursuant to subsection 5, any cash deposit may be withdrawn 2 years after termination of the license in connection with which it was established, or 2 years after completion of all work authorized by the Board after termination of the license, whichever occurs later, if there is no outstanding claim against it.

- 5. After a licensee has acted in the capacity of a licensed contractor in the State of Nevada for not less than 5 consecutive years, the Board may relieve the licensee of the requirement of filing a bond or establishing a cash deposit if evidence supporting such relief is presented to the Board. The Board may at any time thereafter require the licensee to file a new bond or establish a new cash deposit as provided in subsection 4:
- (a) If evidence is presented to the Board supporting this requirement;
- (b) Pursuant to subsection 6, after notification of a final written decision by the Labor Commissioner; or
 - (c) Pursuant to subsection 7.

- → If a licensee is relieved of the requirement of establishing a cash deposit, the deposit may be withdrawn 2 years after such relief is granted, if there is no outstanding claim against it.
- 6. If the Board is notified by the Labor Commissioner pursuant to NRS 607.165 or otherwise receives notification that three substantiated claims for wages have been filed against a contractor within a 2-year period, the Board shall require the contractor to file a bond or establish a cash deposit in an amount fixed by the Board. The contractor shall maintain the bond or cash deposit for the period required by the Board.
- 7. If a contractor who performs work concerning a residential pool or spa: [or work concerning a residential photovoltaic system used to produce electricity:]
- (a) Is determined by the Board to have violated one or more of the provisions of NRS 624.301 to 624.305, inclusive;
- (b) Enters into a contract that is later found to be void and unenforceable against the owner pursuant to subsection 5 of NRS 624.940 or pursuant to any regulation adopted by the Board with respect to contracts for work concerning a residential pool or spa; *or*
- (c) [Enters into a contract on or after October 1, 2021, that is later voided by the owner of the single family residence pursuant to subsection 6 of NRS 624.875 or pursuant to any regulation adopted by the Board with respect to contracts for work concerning a residential photovoltaic system used to produce electricity; or
- (d) Has five valid complaints filed against him or her with the Board within any 15-day period,





- the Board may require the contractor to comply with the provisions of subsection 8.
- 8. If the Board requires a contractor described in subsection 7 to comply with the provisions of this subsection, the contractor shall, before commencing work concerning a residential pool or spa, [or work concerning a residential photovoltaic system used to produce electricity,] obtain:
- (a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a performance bond in an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the amount of the contract, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the contract in accordance with the plans, specifications and conditions set forth in the contract. The performance bond must be solely for the protection of the owner of the property to be improved.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a payment bond in an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the amount of the contract. The payment bond must be solely for the protection of persons supplying labor or materials to the contractor, or to any of his or her subcontractors, in carrying out the provisions of the contract.
- → A bond required pursuant to this subsection must be provided by a person whose long-term debt obligations are rated "A" or better by a nationally recognized rating agency. The contractor shall maintain the bond for the period required by the Board. The contractor shall furnish to the building department of the city or county, as applicable, in which the work will be carried out, a copy of any bond. In lieu of a performance or payment bond, the contractor may obtain an equivalent form of security approved by the Board.
- 9. A contractor who performs work concerning a residential photovoltaic system used to produce electricity shall, before commencing the work, obtain:
- (a) A performance bond in an amount equal to not less than 100 percent of the amount of the contract, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the contract in accordance with the plans, specifications and conditions set forth in the contract. The performance bond must be solely for the protection of the owner of the property to be improved.
- (b) A payment bond in an amount equal to not less than 100 percent of the amount of the contract. The payment bond must be solely for the protection of persons supplying labor or materials to the contractor, or to any of his or her subcontractors, in carrying out the provisions of the contract.
- → The bond required pursuant to this subsection must be provided by a surety who is authorized to transact surety business in this State pursuant to NRS 679A.030, who is included in the United





States Department of the Treasury's Listing of Approved Sureties and whose long-term debt obligations are rated "A" or better by a nationally recognized rating agency. The contractor shall maintain the bond for the period required by the Board. The contractor shall furnish to the building department of the city or county, as applicable, in which the work will be carried out, a copy of any bond.

- 10. As used in this section, ["substantiated]:
- (a) "Substantiated claim for wages" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 607.165.
- (b) "Work concerning a residential photovoltaic system used to produce electricity" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 624.855.
- (c) "Work concerning a residential pool or spa" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 624.915.
- **Sec. 2.** 1. The amendatory provisions of section 1 of this act do not apply to a contractor whose license authorizes the contractor to perform work concerning a residential photovoltaic system used to produce electricity was issued before July 1, 2025, until the date on which the license is renewed, unless the contractor:
- (a) Is determined by the Board to have violated one or more of the provisions of NRS 624.301 to 624.305, inclusive;
- (b) Enters into a contract on or after July 1, 2025, that is later voided by the owner of the single-family residence pursuant to subsection 6 of NRS 624.875 or pursuant to any regulation adopted by the Board with respect to contracts for work concerning a residential photovoltaic system used to produce electricity; or
- (c) Has five valid complaints filed against him or her with the Board within any 15-day period.
 - 2. As used in this section:
 - (a) "Board" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 624.010.
 - (b) "Contractor" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 624.020.
- (c) "Work concerning a residential photovoltaic system used to produce electricity" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 624.855.
 - **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2025.





