

## **Chapter 237**

**(Senate Bill 350)**

AN ACT concerning

### **Electrical Inspectors and Plumbing Inspectors – Master License Required**

FOR the purpose of requiring a county or local government to employ as electrical inspectors only individuals who hold, or have previously held within a certain period of time under certain circumstances, a State license or local license, as applicable, to provide electrical services as a master electrician or who are certified by certain entities; requiring a county or local government to employ as plumbing inspectors only individuals who hold a master plumber license issued by certain entities; providing certain exceptions to certain requirements of this Act; providing for the scope of certain provisions of this Act; providing for the application of this Act; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to licensing requirements for electrical inspectors and plumbing inspectors.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
Section 6–101(a), (g), (h), and (k) and 12–101(a) and (l)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
Section 6–313, 12–103, and 12–503  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

### **Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

6–101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(g) “Local license” means, unless the context requires otherwise, a license that is issued by a local board to provide electrical services as a master electrician.

(h) “Master electrician” means an individual who has the experience, knowledge, and skill to provide electrical services in all aspects of the electrical trade, in a manner that complies with applicable plans, specifications, codes, or law.

(k) “State license” means a license that is issued by the State Board to a master electrician.

6–313.

**(A) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A COUNTY OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY EMPLOY AN INDIVIDUAL AS AN ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR ONLY IF THE INDIVIDUAL:**

**(I) HOLDS A STATE LICENSE OR LOCAL LICENSE, AS APPLICABLE;**

**(II) PREVIOUSLY HELD, WITHIN THE LAST 5 YEARS, A STATE LICENSE OR LOCAL LICENSE, AS APPLICABLE, THAT WAS NOT SUSPENDED OR REVOKED; OR**

**(III) IS CERTIFIED BY:**

**1. THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL AS A COMBINATION INSPECTOR OR AS AN ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR FOR RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS; ~~BY~~**

**2. THE NORTH AMERICAN BOARD OF CERTIFIED ENERGY PRACTITIONERS; OR**

**3. A CERTIFYING ENTITY THAT IS COMPARABLE TO THE ENTITY LISTED IN ITEM 1 OR 2 OF THIS ITEM.**

**(2) PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A COUNTY OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT USES CODE INSPECTORS OR COMBINATION BUILDING CODE INSPECTORS TO CONDUCT ~~CONCURRENT~~ TRADE-SPECIFIC INSPECTIONS ON RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS TO DETERMINE COMPLIANCE WITH ADOPTED ELECTRICAL CODES ~~AND~~ OR RELATED BUILDING CODES.**

**[(a)] (B)** An individual may not have any financial interest in any electrical business while employed by the State, a county, or a local government as an electrical inspector.

**[(b)] (C)** (1) On appointment or employment as an electrical inspector, the individual:

(i) shall place the State license of the individual on inactive status; and

(ii) except for the renewal fee, shall meet the inactive status requirements of § 6–311 of this subtitle.

(2) The State Board may issue an electrical inspector identification card to an electrical inspector who has placed the State license on inactive status.

(3) The State Board may not charge a fee to issue the identification card.

**[(c)] (D)** The State Board may change the status of an electrical inspector to individual inactive status, if the electrical inspector:

(1) meets the inactive status requirements of § 6–311 of this subtitle; and

(2) pays an inactive status fee of \$50.

**[(d)] (E)** On termination of the appointment or employment of an individual as an electrical inspector, the State Board shall reactivate the State license of the individual who is on inactive status, without examination, if the individual meets the reactivation requirements for a State license under § 6–311(f) of this subtitle, including payment of the reactivation fee.

12–101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(1) (1) “Master plumber” means, unless the context requires otherwise, an individual who is licensed by the Board to provide plumbing services and natural gas services.

(2) “Master plumber” includes a master plumber gas fitter.

12–103.

(a) Except as expressly provided in §§ 12–305 [and], 12–307, AND **12–503(B)** of this title, this title does not apply to Baltimore County.

(b) Except as expressly provided in §§ 12–305 [and], 12–307, AND **12–503(B)** of this title, this title does not apply to areas of Montgomery and Prince

George's counties that are under the jurisdiction of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

12-503.

(a) Each individual whom the State, a county, or a local government appoints or employs as a plumbing inspector shall:

(1) each year attend a continuing education course that the Board or, with the approval of the Board, a county or local government conducts; and

(2) meet minimum standards that:

(i) adequately ensure that the plumbing inspector is qualified to inspect in accordance with the State Plumbing Code;

(ii) are established:

1. by the county or local government in consultation with the Board; or

2. if there is no standard established by the county or local government, by the Board; and

(iii) are administered:

1. for a county or local government inspector, by the county or local government that appoints or employs the inspector; and

2. for a State inspector, by the State.

**(B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A COUNTY OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY EMPLOY AN INDIVIDUAL AS A PLUMBING INSPECTOR ONLY IF THE INDIVIDUAL HOLDS A MASTER PLUMBER LICENSE ISSUED BY THE BOARD, THE BALTIMORE COUNTY PLUMBING BOARD, OR THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION.**

**(2) PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A COUNTY OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT USES COMBINATION BUILDING CODE INSPECTORS TO CONDUCT CONCURRENT TRADE-SPECIFIC INSPECTIONS ON RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS TO DETERMINE COMPLIANCE WITH ADOPTED PLUMBING CODES AND BUILDING CODES IF THE COMBINATION BUILDING CODE INSPECTOR, AS PART OF THE INSPECTOR'S TRAINING, HAS PASSED;**

(I) A MASTER PLUMBER EXAMINATION GIVEN ~~IN THE STATE AS PART OF THE INSPECTOR'S TRAINING BY THE BOARD, THE BALTIMORE COUNTY PLUMBING BOARD, OR THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION; OR~~

(II) THE PLUMBING INSPECTOR'S TEST ADMINISTERED BY THE BOARD.

[(b)] (C) An individual may not have any financial interest in any plumbing business while employed by the State, a county, or any local government as a plumbing inspector.

[(c)] (D) (1) On appointment or employment, the individual shall place the master plumber license, journey plumber license, or limited license on inactive status.

(2) The Board may issue a plumbing inspector identification card to a plumbing inspector who has placed the appropriate license on inactive status.

(3) On termination of the appointment or employment of an individual as a plumbing inspector, the Board shall reactivate the master plumber license, journey plumber license, or limited license of an individual who is on inactive status, without examination, if the individual:

(i) makes a written request to the Board; and

(ii) pays to the Board a reactivation fee of:

1. \$20, for a journey plumber or holder of a limited journey plumber license; or

2. \$50, for a master plumber or holder of a limited master plumber license.

[(d)] (E) The Board may impose a reasonable fee to cover the costs of conducting the continuing education courses under subsection (a) of this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to any electrical inspector or plumbing inspector employed by a county or local government before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect January 1, 2014.

**Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2013.**