

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 604

(Senator McCray)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Maryland Electricians Act – Revisions

This bill alters the Maryland Electricians Act by (1) requiring the State Board of Electricians to credit successful completion of specified apprenticeship programs toward the experience required for licensure as a master electrician or journeyman electrician; (2) modifying the examination requirement for applicants for a journeyman electrician license; and (3) makes other clarifying and conforming changes. Additionally, the bill requires the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 1, 2023, on out-of-state reciprocity agreements for electrical licenses. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MDL and the State Board of Electricians can implement the bill's changes and complete the required report with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are likely not materially affected.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law:

Alterations to Qualifications for Master and Journeyman Electrician Licensing Requirements

Under current law, generally, an applicant for either a master electrician license or a journeyman electrician license must have been engaged or employed regularly and principally in providing electrical services for all types of electrical equipment and

apparatuses for at least seven or four years, respectively, while under the direction and supervision of (1) a master electrician or (2) an appropriately qualified employee of a governmental unit.

For a master electrician license applicant only, the board may allow an applicant up to three years of credit toward the seven-year experience requirement if the board determines that the applicant has completed a formal course of study or professional training in electrical installation comparable to the required experience.

For both types of licensees, the bill requires the board to credit toward the required experience an applicant's work as part of a successfully completed electrician apprenticeship program approved by the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council (MATC) or the federal Office of Apprenticeship.

Waiver of Experience Requirements for Journeyman Electrician License

Under current law, the board must waive the *experience* requirements for an applicant for a journeyman electrician license if the applicant:

- provides written proof of *three* years of work experience providing electrical services under the control and direction of a master electrician (and submits an application for a license by December 31, 2022); or
- provides written proof that the applicant has successfully completed an electrician apprenticeship program approved by MATC or the federal Office of Apprenticeship that consists of (1) at least 576 classroom hours and (2) 8,000 hours of work experience.

The bill expands this provision by requiring the board to waive the experience *and* examination requirement if the applicant provides written proof of *four* years of work experience providing electrical services under the control and direction of a master electrician and submits the application by the required deadline (or otherwise provides proof of completion of the above apprenticeship programs).

Electrical Permits

Under current law, an electrician may obtain an electrical permit or any other similar permit from a local jurisdiction if the electrician (1) is actively registered locally (if required), *or* holds a State license; (2) shows proof of the State license; and (3) pays any permit fee

required by the local jurisdiction. The bill expressly requires a person seeking such a permit to hold a State license and to provide proof of the required insurance.

Under current law, on payment of the permit fee that the local jurisdiction requires, the locality must issue the appropriate permit to each applicant who meets the requirements noted above. The bill establishes an exception to this requirement by authorizing a local jurisdiction to delay the issuance of an electrical permit if, for a particular job, the local jurisdiction requires the issuance of other permits (including a building permit) before issuance of the electrical permit.

Memoranda of Understanding and Reporting Requirement

The bill requires MDL to review each memorandum of understanding (MOU) that Maryland has entered into with another state or territory guaranteeing a reciprocal recognition of electrician licenses to determine whether all licenses issued to master electricians under Maryland law are covered by the terms of the MOU.

Should MDL determine that the terms of an MOU do not cover a master electrician who is licensed in accordance with Maryland law, MDL must seek to renegotiate the terms of the MOU to include licenses for master electricians who are not covered.

By January 1, 2023, MDL must report to the Governor and General Assembly on:

- any outstanding MOUs with other states or territories guaranteeing a reciprocal recognition of electrician licenses (1) that do not recognize master electricians authorized for licensure under Maryland law and (2) that MDL was unable to renegotiate; and
- actions needed to guarantee that a license issued under Maryland law can be brought under the terms of an MOU, including (1) any necessary legislation and (2) any necessary appropriation of funds.

Small Business Effect: Because the bill generally provides greater flexibility for individuals seeking licensure as a master or journeyman electrician, small businesses that employ such individuals may benefit from the bill's changes.

Additional Comment: The bill references apprenticeship programs approved by MATC, but MATC does not approve apprenticeship programs in the State. Rather, the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning within MDL approves apprenticeship programs; MATC serves in an advisory capacity to the division.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 1285 (Delegate Hornberger) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Legislative Services

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