



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Office. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

*President*

**Donna S. Edwards**

*Secretary-Treasurer*

**Gerald W. Jackson**

## **HB 1285 – Maryland Electricians Act - Revisions**

### **House Economic Matters Committee**

**March 8, 2022**

### **SUPPORT**

**Donna S. Edwards**

**President**

**Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1285 – Maryland Electricians Act - Revisions. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

It is imperative, for the purpose of creating family-sustaining careers in the highly skilled electricians trade, that we remove barriers to employment that are sometimes created by a byzantine licensure process. With an eye on maintaining very high standards to obtain a license while also recognizing and crediting the work experiences of an applicant, we can find the balance that allows more qualified people to get licensed without diluting our lowering our standards.

HB 1285 makes three common sense modifications to the Maryland Electricians Act:

1. Allows an applicant to credit their completion of an MATC approved apprenticeship as experience that counts towards licensure.
2. Waives the examination requirement for some applicants who can fulfill alternate criteria for licensure that still has the same demanding standards.
3. An electrician working wholly under a master electrician – while doing no other electrical work – will no longer have to carry general liability insurance or property damage insurance if the master electrician already carries them.

These changes to the Maryland Electricians Act will open up more opportunities for qualified and highly trained electricians to obtain their licenses. Moreover, it removes an onerous regulation on existing electricians whose only work is with an already insured master electrician.

**We urge a favorable report on HB 1285.**