



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1285 Maryland Electricians Act-Revisions March 8, 2022

TO: Hon. C.T. Wilson, Chair, Brian Crosby, Vice Chair, and members of the Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee, I encourage a **favorable vote on HB 1285**, The Maryland Electricians Act. These revisions, along with last year's bill, which became law, simplifies the process of obtaining a statewide journeyman and apprentice electrician's license. Which encourages more State residents to apply, obtain, and keep a license. Benefiting the industry and increasing the states quality of trades people.

The crown jewel of these revisions is the waiver of the examination requirements, If the applicant has successfully completed a State registered apprenticeship program and other qualifications. Although years of experience always improves a trades persons skill, freshly educated people have up to date code advantages. For example, when jobsite conditions require an interpretation of code, the best person suited to answer is the 5th year apprentice who is being educated on new code language at the present time. Other examples would be: Who would know law statutes better than a current law student, who could quote the bible better than a seminarian. The processing and testing of the currently educated electrician, can be enough red tape to prevent that person from seeking a license. If a young person is granted the waiver, they would be more inclined to carry that license for the entirety of their career and the state could collect licensing fees for that entire period. Win! Win! For both parties.

I commend the sponsor of this Bill for proposing these revisions. Like last years Electricians Act, this year's revisions are simply for electricians. Any other groups that want to amend or attach conditions to this Bill, are looking to catch a "free ride" on HB 1285. I suggest they find a sponsor willing to do the hard work and dedicate the years that are necessary to pass such a bill.

In conclusion, I ask the committee to **support HB 1285** and simplify the process of obtaining a journeyman electricians license. I look forward to the passing of these revisions and closing the book on this now 8-year journey of the Maryland Electricians Act. Thank you.