



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 604 MARYLAND ELECTRICIANS ACT – REVISIONS February 17, 2022

To: Hon. Paul Pinsky, Chair, Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair and members of the Senate
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
From: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee, I encourage you to look **favorably upon SB 604**, The revisions to the Maryland Electricians Act. This bi-partisan bill passed last year, and this version was written to add a couple of provisions that are an “easy lift” and benefits both the state and licensed electricians and apprentices.

In years past, Electricians in our state were often hesitant about obtaining licenses because there was no state license, only jurisdictional. An individual could have to carry some 30 or so licenses to work in the various cities and counties throughout the Freestate. With last year’s passage of the Maryland Electricians Act, we now have a statewide Journey Person and apprentice license. The bill before you will add revisions that help us all. The crown jewel of this bill is the waiver of an examination by a person whom: 1-completes a registered apprenticeship program 2- completes a required amount of classroom hours 3-completes a required amount of on-the-job training hours. If he or she satisfies these requirements and pays a license fee, that person will receive a license. The idea is that the person that is most up to date and knowledgeable about the electrical code and calculations, is the person that just completed a rigorous training program. Not unlike a law student in their last year of law school, who would probably be more familiar with specifics of the laws than the person some 20 years removed from school.

The problem in most state licensing programs is enforcement. If the state does not check to see if there are licensed electricians on site, no one will ever apply for a license. (We at IBEW 26 encourage strict enforcement) The beauty of **SB 604** is that qualified electricians can obtain a license without the bureaucracy, and now the state can receive a fee every other year for the entire career of these qualified electricians. In other words, the state coffers get filled and jobsites throughout Maryland are filled with qualified, licensed electricians.

I ask this committee to simplify the process of obtaining a license, increase the quality of journey persons and collect more fees to help the state grow and meet the challenges of the future. I respectfully ask that you vote in **favor of SB 604**. Thank you

