



National Electrical Contractors Association Washington, D.C. Chapter

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Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

On behalf of the Washington D.C. Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), I write today to express our strong support for Senate Bill 604, the amending of three modifications to the Maryland Electrician Act.

DC NECA represents more than 100 construction contractors, some 6,000 workers and over 2,000 Apprentices working in Maryland. Our association takes pride knowing that we represent quality electrical contractors who employ the best trained electricians in the state. And our apprenticeship facility in Lanham is second to none, offering a first class, free education for Marylanders looking to pursue a fulfilling career with great pay and benefits.

NECA supports Senate Bill 604 because the need for skilled electricians is at an all-time high. Therefore, it is essential to ease the burden for an experienced electrician to obtain their license and certifications required, while simultaneously upholding the integrity and safety for the industry.

Senate Bill 604 helps streamline this process by crediting an applicant's successful completion of an electrical apprenticeship program — approved by either the *Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council (MATP)* or *The Federal Office of Apprenticeship* — as the required experience necessary for the applicant's licensure.

Additionally, it waives the examination requirements for an applicant if they apply for their license before the December 2022 deadline; and can provide written proof they have four (4) years of electrical work experience under the direction of a master electrician.

Lastly, the proposed modifications will make it permissible for an individual who once possessed a Masters license to go back into the field (working for a master electrician) and work without having to maintain general liability insurance and property damage insurance – required by the law for master electricians.

In an industry that faces the ever-looming concern of a shortage of qualified labor, the removing of barriers for highly skilled and properly trained electricians to continue working unimpeded is critical to improving the electric trade workforce within the State of Maryland. Senate Bill 604 amends the Maryland Electricians Act to provide an easier avenue by which qualified and experienced electricians, currently in the occupation, can procure their license and maintain working in the industry.

For these reasons, Washington D.C. NECA supports Senate Bill 604 and asks for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

JT Thomas
Executive Director
Washington D.C. NECA