

SB 604 - MD Electricians Act - Revisions.pdf

Uploaded by: Donna Edwards

Position: FAV



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

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President

Donna S. Edwards

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SB 604 – Maryland Electricians Act - Revisions
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 17, 2022

SUPPORT

Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 604 – 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.

SB 604 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 SB 604.

SB 604 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: JT Thomas

Position: FAV



National Electrical Contractors Association Washington, D.C. Chapter

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February 17, 2022

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

SB604_LOS_Maryland Electricians Act - Revisions.pd

Uploaded by: Kevin O'Keeffe

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February 17, 2022

To: Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support Senate Bill 604 – Maryland Electricians Act - Revisions

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake supports Senate Bill (SB) 604 and requests a favorable report. SB604 is a follow up to the 2021 legislation which created a statewide journeyman electrician license. SB604 spells out how an electrician with requisite work experience or the completion of an approved electrician apprenticeship program can become a journeyman electrician by approval of the Maryland State Board of Electricians.

Applicants for a journeyman electrician license do not have to take an exam if by December 31, 2022 they provide:

- written proof of four (4) years of work experience providing electrical services under the control or direction of a master electrician; or
- written proof that they have successfully completed an electrician apprenticeship program approved by the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council (MATC) or the Federal Office of Apprenticeship. The program must consist of at least 576 classroom hours and 8,000 hours of work experience.

SB604 is designed to allow experienced electrical workers to become journeymen electricians in Maryland. This will create efficiency for electrical contractors and their workforce without compromising safety. For nearly a decade, IEC Chesapeake has worked closely with its industry partners and local and state officials in an effort to create a statewide journeyman electrician license. SB604 builds upon the passage of last year's legislation and creates a clear path to license much needed journeyman electricians.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 1-301-621-9545, extension 114 or at gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at kevin@kokeeffelaw.com.

About Us

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. Our headquarters are located in Laurel, Maryland. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship program for training electricians. In addition, IEC Chesapeake promotes green economic growth by providing education and working with contractor members, industry partners, government policy makers and inspectors to increase the use of renewable energy.



sb604test - Maryland Electricians Act - Revisions.

Uploaded by: Marcus Jackson

Position: FAV



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February 17, 2022

TO: EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
FROM: ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTOR
RE: S.B. 604 – MARYLAND ELECTRICIANS ACT - REVISIONS
POSITION: SUPPORT

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) would like to address S.B. 604 which is before you today for consideration.

The bill will allow journeypersons to be “grandfathered” in, without examination, provided the individual can show a certain amount of experience in the trade and verified by a Master Electrician. It is estimated that over 200,000 journeypersons are currently working in the State of Maryland, many of whom have decades of experience.

The revision allows for a person to qualify to be “grandfathered” in if they provide proof of a minimum of 4 years’ experience in the trade under a Master Electrician. It is our belief that this is most appropriate for the following reasons:

- a) The typical apprenticeship time period is 4 years. We believe that an individual should have the minimum of 4 years’ experience that is required of an apprentice to become a journeyperson.
- b) If the amendment allows for only 3 years of documented experience, many current 3rd year apprentices could potentially opt out of their final year of school. This is a loophole that is best closed to avoid this situation.

On behalf of the over 1,500 ABC members in Maryland, we respectfully request a favorable report on S.B. 604.

Marcus Jackson, Director
Government Affairs

SB604 LU24 Support 2.16.22.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael McHale

Position: FAV

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:
Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building Trades Council — AFL-CIO
Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council — AFL-CIO
Central MD Labor Council — AFL-CIO
Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO
Maryland State - D.C. — AFL-CIO
National Safety Council



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Written Testimony of

Michael J. McHale, Business Manager, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee on

SB 604 – Maryland Electricians Act – Revisions

SUPPORT

February 15, 2022

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony in **support** of SB 604.

My name is Michael McHale, I am a 37-year member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 24 in Baltimore. I currently serve our membership as the Business Manager.

I know how hard lawmakers worked to pass the Maryland Electricians Act last session. Statewide uniform licensing of electricians was a complicated issue with many stake holders.

The revisions in SB 604 are clarifying language, streamlining the process for obtaining a Journeypersons license, and delineating the requirements to obtain a Master Electrician license. Additionally, SB 604 gives credit to Maryland residents for completing a State Registered Electrical Apprenticeship Program. These revisions update the current statute to align with the original intent and spirit of the Maryland Electricians Act. This is why I'm requesting you give SB 604 a **favorable** report.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. McHale

Testimony in support of SB 604 2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Tom Clark

Position: FAV



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

GEORGE C. HOGAN: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
JOSEPH F. DABBS: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • PAULO C. HENRIQUES: Treasurer



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



SB 604 - Letter of Support - Maryland NECA.pdf

Uploaded by: William Yull

Position: FAV



Maryland Chapter
National Electrical Contractors Association



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February 16, 2022

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

On behalf of the Maryland 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.

Maryland NECA represents 75 construction contractors, some 2,000 workers and over 400 working apprentices. Our association takes pride knowing that we represent quality electrical contractors who employ the best trained electricians in the state.

NECA supports Senate Bill 604 because the need for skilled electricians is at an all-time high; considering this, the ease by which an experienced electrician, currently working in the industry, can obtain their license and certifications required to continue working is essential.

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 assigned to a local registration by a master electrician exempt from maintaining general liability insurance and property damage insurance if: the master electrician or local registration-holder carries these insurances; the individual only provides electrical services within the scope of that registration; and the individual provides the State Board with evidence of their employer's insurance.

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, Maryland NECA supports Senate Bill 604 and asks for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

William Yull
Executive Director
Maryland NECA