

**Maryland General Assembly
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulation
Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation
(DLS Control No. 14-324)**

Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact

This regulation specifies that an electrician seeking to renew a State license must complete the required number of continuing education hours before applying for renewal; otherwise, the State Board of Master Electricians (board) may consider the failure to complete the hours before submission of the application as a violation of the continuing education requirements.

The regulation presents no legal issues of concern.

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Regulation of COMAR Affected

Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation:

Board of Master Electricians: Continuing Education: COMAR 09.09.02.01

Legal Analysis

Background

The board, located within the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (department), issues master electrician licenses to qualified individuals under the Maryland Master Electricians Act. Each county is required to adopt licensing qualifications comparable to or more stringent than specified State qualifications or require a State license. In a local jurisdiction that requires a local license, the State license does not authorize the provision of electrical services but serves only as a mechanism for obtaining licenses in each local jurisdiction. In the two jurisdictions that do not have local licensing requirements, Garrett and Allegany counties, an electrician must have a State license to provide electrical services as a master electrician. Regulations require a master electrician to earn 10 hours of continuing education in order to renew a State license.

Summary of Regulation

The regulation specifies that a licensee must complete the required number of continuing education hours before filing an application to renew a master electrician license, regardless of the expiration date for the license. Additionally, the regulation specifies that failure to complete the continuing education hours before filing an application for renewal may constitute a violation of one or more provisions of law governing electrician's conduct.

Legal Issue

The regulation presents no legal issues of concern.

Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent

The department cites §§ 6-205(2)(ii) and 6-310(c)(3) of the Business Occupations and Professions Article as authority for the regulation. Section 6-205(2)(ii) requires the board to adopt regulations to establish continuing education requirements. Section 6-310(c)(3) authorizes a licensee to renew a license for an additional 2-year term if the licensee complies with continuing education requirements and satisfies other requirements.

This authority is correct and complete. The regulation complies with the legislative intent of the law.

Fiscal Analysis

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Agency Estimate of Projected Fiscal Impact

The department advises that the regulation has minimal or no impact on State or local governments. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Impact on Budget

There is no impact on the State operating or capital budget.

Agency Estimate of Projected Small Business Impact

The department advises that the regulation has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses in the State. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Contact Information

Legal Analysis: Laura H. Atas – (410) 946/(301) 970-5350

Fiscal Analysis: Stephen M. Ross – (410) 946/(301) 970-5510