

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 913
Economic Matters

(Washington County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Washington County - Electrical Board - Adoption of Regulations

This bill alters the public local laws of Washington County to require the Washington County Electrical Board to adopt regulations for (1) the licensing of master electricians; (2) the approval of reciprocal licensing agreements with other municipal corporations and local governments having similar regulations; (3) enforcement adjudication of electrical work codes and permitting issues; and (4) providing timely notice of meetings for those who have applied for a license. Before any new regulations are adopted, they must be approved by the Washington County Commissioners. Additionally, the electrical board must give notice to the adoption of new or amended regulations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: This bill would not materially impact Washington County finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each county is required to adopt regulations to provide for the licensing and regulation of master electricians, or require a State license for providing electrical services as a master electrician. In order to qualify for a State license, an applicant must have been engaged or employed regularly in providing electrical services for all types of electrical equipment for seven years while under the supervision of a master electrician, or a similarly qualified employee of a governmental unit. The State Board of Master

Electricians may allow an applicant up to three years of credit toward the seven years experience, if the applicant completes a formal course of study or professional training in electrical installation. The Washington County Electrical Board is required to adopt regulations for the examinations of master electricians, as well as for the placement, installation, and operation of electrical wires and appliances in buildings in Washington County.

Background: The Washington County Electrical Board consists of five individuals. Four are appointed by the Washington County Commissioners, two must be licensed master electricians from the county, one from an electric public utility company doing business in the county, and one is “at-large.” The fifth member is designated by the Washington County Fire and Rescue Association and must be an active member of a volunteer fire company in the county.

A master electrician is defined as an individual engaged in the business of, or representing his/her self as being in the business of, installing, erecting, or repairing electric wires or conductors used in the transmission of electric current.

Local Fiscal Effect: While there may be some costs associated with implementing the new regulations, Washington County advises that any costs will be offset by existing licensing fees.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Washington County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 7, 2005
n/hlb

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