

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 878
Economic Matters

(Washington County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Washington County - Regulation of Electricians and the Provision of Electrical Services

This bill alters the public local laws of Washington County by removing provisions governing • the issuance and renewal of licenses for electricians, including fees; • licensing examinations for electricians; and • the definition and authority of a “restricted electrician.” The Washington County Board of Electrical Examiners and Supervisors must adopt rules and regulations for those provisions. The bill also provides that the position of “restricted electrician” is dealt with in the same way and under the same rules and regulations as the board uses in issuance of the master’s electrician license. Also, if approved by the State Board of Master Electricians, the county electric board must adopt rules and regulations for the examinations and licensing of apprentice and journeyman electricians. The Washington County Commissioners will determine the salary of the county Board of Electrical Examiners and Supervisors.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The 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, of whom 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. The electric board currently oversees 584 active master electricians and 77 active restricted electricians.

Local Fiscal Effect: The bill will not result in a substantial change in Washington County revenues or expenditures. The county advises that rules and regulations the bill requires the electrical board to develop will be substantially similar to what is currently provided in the public local laws of Washington County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Washington County; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

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