

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1220  
Economic Matters

(Washington County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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

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The bill changes the public laws of Washington County related to the work of master electricians by authorizing the Washington County Board of Examiners and Supervisors to allow master electricians to assign their licenses to individuals who work under the direct supervision of the electrician, even if these individuals are not employees of the master electrician.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill only affects local government operations.

**Local Effect:** Changing regulations related to the work of master electricians in Washington County does not materially affect the county's finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful. General contractors and master electricians in Washington County are able to collaborate more efficiently.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Electricians licensed in Washington County are responsible for any work done under the licensee's direction and supervision. Individuals who work under the authority of a master electrician's license must be employees and must work under the direct supervision of the master electrician. A license in the county is not assignable or transferable.

Under State law, each county must 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, applicants 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 similarly qualified employees of a governmental unit.

State law allows individuals who hold a State master electrician's license to use that license to obtain a local license and assign the local license to another person, including a sole proprietorship, who engages in the business of providing electrical services.

**Background:** Washington County advises that the county's current public laws do not allow the assignment of a master electrician's license to another individual or company, even if the master electrician plans to directly supervise the activity. This effectively prevents a Washington County general contractor who administers a contract from hiring a master electrician as a subcontractor because the employees of the general contractor cannot perform electrical work under the supervision of the master electrician. Therefore, if a general contractor requires the services of a master electrician in Washington County, the two parties must form a limited liability company. According to the county, this is an unnecessary burden on general contractors and master electricians.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 16, 2009  
ncs/mcr

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