

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1175
Economic Matters

(Delegate Myers, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Electricians, Gas Fitters, HVAC Contractors, and Plumbers - Display of Licenses
and License Numbers**

This bill establishes rules governing the display of license or certificate numbers on the work vehicles of licensed electricians; plumbers; gas fitters; or heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVACR) contractors.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is procedural in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill specifies that a county or municipal corporation may not adopt a regulation or enact a law that requires a person licensed as a master electrician to display a license number on each vehicle used on the job to provide electrical services. However, each licensed master electrician must display the State license number or county license number of the licensee on each work vehicle.

A county or municipal corporation may not require a person licensed as a plumber or gas fitter (in various classifications) to display a county or municipal corporation certificate number on each vehicle used to provide plumbing or gas fitting services. This provision

does not apply to Baltimore County or areas of the State under the jurisdiction of the Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission.

A county or municipal corporation also may not require a person licensed to provide HVACR services to display a county or municipal corporation certificate number on a work vehicle. This provision does not apply to Anne Arundel County.

Current Law: The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) oversees licensing boards for electricians, plumbers and gas fitters, and HVACR contractors in the State. Each board establishes standards for the industry, but the degree of local licensing varies in each area. Most counties require local licensure of electricians, whereas a State license for plumbers, gas fitters, or HVACR contractors authorizes work throughout the State, with some exceptions.

Electricians

Each county must adopt regulations regarding master electricians that are comparable to the qualifications for State licensure, or require a State license to practice in the county. Municipal corporations may establish their own regulations, or adopt the county or State regulations. In order to work as a master electrician in a county, an individual must meet the licensure requirements adopted by the county government or be licensed by the State. Thus, an individual can be licensed at the local level based on examination and reciprocate directly with other local governments and never choose to get State license.

Plumbers and Gas Fitters

The State Board of Plumbing licenses and regulates individuals who provide or assist in providing plumbing and gas services in the State. The board issues natural gas fitter licenses to qualified individuals who are nonplumbers. The board also issues a certificate to qualified individuals, who are nonplumbers, to provide propane gas services throughout the State. Both of these types of licenses are required for work throughout Maryland except in Baltimore County and areas of Montgomery and Prince George's counties served by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). These jurisdictions issue their own licenses and have their own plumbing codes.

Each master plumber or limited master plumber must display a license number on each work vehicle. Holders of a propane gas fitter certificate or master natural gas fitter license are subject to the same requirements.

HVAC Contractors

The State Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors licenses and regulates individuals who provide commercial and residential HVACR services in the State. One jurisdiction, Anne Arundel County, issues local HVACR licenses. Each licensed master, master restricted, or limited HVACR contractor must display the license number of the licensee on each vehicle used on the job in providing HVACR services.

Background: DLLR advises that the State license for master electricians does not authorize the performance of electrical services in any subdivision; local licenses authorize performance. Moreover, a master electrician can be licensed at the local level based on local qualifications. Thus, a master electrician does not need to have a State license in order to practice. Similarly, Anne Arundel County licenses HVACR contractors for work in the county and does not require a State license.

Under current law, local governments may require licensees to display a license on their work vehicles. If licensees practice in multiple jurisdictions, they may be required to display a license for each area. In some cases, there may not be enough space on a vehicle to clearly display multiple licenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Harford, Montgomery, Talbot, and Wicomico counties; Towns of Bel Air, Leonardtown, and Riverdale Park; Cities of Baltimore, Salisbury, and Westminster; Department of Legislative Services

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