

Chapter 579

(Senate Bill 916)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study Licensing and Continuing Education Requirements for Electricians

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Licensing and Continuing Education Requirements for Electricians; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Licensing and Continuing Education Requirements for Electricians.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) There is a Task Force to Study Licensing and Continuing Education Requirements for Electricians.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the Secretary's designee; and

(4) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) one representative of the Maryland Uniform Electrical Licensing Examination Committee, Inc.;

(ii) one representative of a local electrical board that licenses journeyman electricians;

(iii) one representative of a local electrical board with an established continuing education program;

(iv) one representative of the National Electrical Contractors Association;

~~(iii)~~ (v) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

~~(iv)~~ (vi) one representative of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers;

~~(v)~~ (vii) one representative of Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake; and

~~(vi)~~ (viii) one member of the State Board of Master Electricians.

(c) The Task Force shall elect a chair from among its members.

(d) The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Task Force shall:

(1) examine proposed changes to the State licensing requirements for electricians in the State;

~~(2) review local electrician licensing requirements and issues relating to transitioning to a single, statewide license;~~

~~(3) examine the effect on local boards of electricians and local governments of proposed changes reviewed under items (1) and (2) of this subsection~~
review appropriate approaches for the licensure of electricians at the State and local level to protect citizens and provide for efficiency of electrical services across county lines;

(3) if a new approach to licensure is deemed appropriate, consider how this change affects electricians currently licensed at the State and local level, and the boards that currently oversee licensure at the State and local level;

(4) make recommendations relating to statewide continuing education requirements for electricians; ~~and~~

(5) make recommendations for other legislation relating to licensing requirements for electricians;

(6) make findings and recommendations regarding the effect of statewide licensing on barriers to entry into the electrician marketplace; and

(7) make findings and recommendations as to the causal link between a continuing education program and benefits to the professional practice of an electrician.

(g) On or before November 15, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations for legislation to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2013.