

## Chapter 187

**(House Bill 149)**

AN ACT concerning

**Maryland Electricians Act – Revisions**

FOR the purpose of altering the entity that must administer or approve an apprenticeship program for electricians; substituting the term “uninsured” for the term “inactive” in certain provisions of law relating to liability insurance requirements for certain electricians; prohibiting a certain electrician from contracting to provide electrical services unless the electrical work is covered by certain liability insurance; specifying who is authorized and required to purchase certain insurance; requiring the State Board of Electricians to specify on each license whether the license holder meets the insurance requirements of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to electricians and liability insurance requirements.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
 Section 6–205(b), 6–304, 6–307.1, 6–311, 6–312, 6–313, and 6–604  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

6–205.

(b) The continuing education requirements adopted under this section shall:

(1) be based on the National Electrical Code or any local variants adopted by a local board;

(2) consist of a course or training on practical techniques, installation procedures, or other relevant topics; and

(3) be administered by:

(i) a college or an apprenticeship program approved by the [Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council] **DIVISION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ADULT LEARNING** or the federal Office of Apprenticeship;

(ii) a state or nationally recognized training program; or

- (iii) another person approved by the State Board.

6-304.

(a) To qualify for a State license, an applicant shall meet the requirements of this section.

(b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, an applicant for a master electrician license shall have been engaged or employed regularly and principally in providing electrical services for all types of electrical equipment and apparatuses for at least 7 years while under the direction and supervision of:

- (i) a master electrician; or
- (ii) a similarly qualified employee of a governmental unit.

(2) (i) The State Board may allow an applicant up to 3 years of credit toward the experience required under paragraph (1) of this subsection, if the State Board determines that the applicant has completed a formal course of study or professional training in electrical installation comparable to the required experience.

(ii) The State Board shall credit toward the experience required under paragraph (1) of this subsection an applicant's work as part of a successfully completed electrician apprenticeship program approved by the [Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council] **DIVISION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ADULT LEARNING** or the federal Office of Apprenticeship.

(c) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, an applicant for a journeyman electrician license shall have been engaged or employed regularly and principally in providing electrical services for all types of electrical equipment and apparatuses for at least 4 years while under the direction and supervision of:

- (i) a master electrician; or
- (ii) an employee of a governmental unit who is similarly qualified as a master electrician licensed under this title.

(2) The State Board shall credit toward the experience required under paragraph (1) of this subsection an applicant's work as part of a successfully completed electrician apprenticeship program approved by the [Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council] **DIVISION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ADULT LEARNING** or the federal Office of Apprenticeship.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, the applicant shall pass an examination given by the State Board under this subtitle.

(e) The State Board may investigate the qualifications of each applicant to determine whether the applicant meets the requirements of this section.

6-307.1.

The State Board shall waive the experience and examination requirements for an applicant for a journeyman electrician license if the applicant:

(1) (i) provides written proof of 4 years of work experience providing electrical services under the control and direction of a master electrician; and

(ii) submits an application for a license to the State Board on or before December 31, 2022; or

(2) provides written proof that the applicant has successfully completed an electrician apprenticeship program approved by the [Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council] **DIVISION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ADULT LEARNING** or the federal Office of Apprenticeship that consists of:

(i) at least 576 classroom hours; and

(ii) 8,000 hours of work experience.

6-311.

(a) The State Board shall place a State licensee on [inactive] **UNINSURED** status and issue an [inactive] **UNINSURED** status certificate to the State licensee, if the State licensee:

(1) submits to the State Board an application for [inactive] **UNINSURED** status on the form that the State Board provides;

(2) pays to the State Board any applicable [inactive] **UNINSURED** status application fee;

(3) except for the insurance requirements of § 6-604 of this title, qualifies for an active State license; and

(4) returns the State license to the State Board.

(b) The State Board shall place an applicant for an initial State license on [inactive] **UNINSURED** status and issue an [inactive] **UNINSURED** status certificate to the applicant, if the applicant:

(1) submits to the State Board an application for **[inactive] UNINSURED** status on the form that the State Board provides;

(2) pays to the State Board an **[inactive] UNINSURED** status application fee set by the State Board; and

(3) except for **MEETING** the continuing education requirement **[of] ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD UNDER § 6–310(c)** of this subtitle and the insurance requirements of § 6–604 of this title, qualifies for an active State license.

(c) (1) A master electrician licensee on **[inactive] UNINSURED** status may not use a State license to obtain a local registration for providing electrical services as a master electrician in a local jurisdiction of the State.

(2) In a county that requires a State master electrician license, a licensee on **[inactive] UNINSURED** status may **[not] ONLY** provide electrical services as a **[master] JOURNEYPERSON** electrician.

(d) (1) Unless the individual applies for another 2–year term as provided in this subsection, an individual on **[inactive] UNINSURED** status loses that status on the expiration of the **[inactive] UNINSURED** status.

(2) (i) At least 1 month before the **[inactive] UNINSURED** status of an individual expires, the State Board shall mail or electronically transmit to the individual:

1. a renewal application form; and

2. a notice that states:

A. the date on which the **[inactive] UNINSURED** status expires; and

B. the amount of the renewal fee.

(ii) If an electronic transmission under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph is returned to the State Board as undeliverable, the State Board shall mail to the individual, at the last known address of the individual, the materials required under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph within 10 business days of the date the State Board received the notice that the electronic transmission was undeliverable.

(3) Before the **[inactive] UNINSURED** status expires, an individual on **[inactive] UNINSURED** status periodically may renew it for an additional 2–year term, if the individual:

(i) otherwise is entitled to be placed on **[inactive] UNINSURED** status;

(ii) except for an electrical inspector, pays to the State Board a renewal fee set by the State Board; **[and]**

(iii) submits to the State Board a renewal application on the form that the State Board provides; **AND**

**(IV) MEETS THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD UNDER § 6-310(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

(4) After an **[inactive] UNINSURED** status expires, the former licensee may reapply for **[inactive] UNINSURED** status only if the former licensee:

(i) otherwise is entitled to be placed on **[inactive] UNINSURED** status;

(ii) pays to the State Board a reapplication fee set by the State Board; and

(iii) reapplies to the State Board for **[inactive] UNINSURED** status within 2 years after initial expiration of **[inactive] UNINSURED** status on a form that the State Board provides.

(5) The State Board shall renew the **[inactive] UNINSURED** status of each individual or grant the reapplication for **[inactive] UNINSURED** status of each former licensee who meets the requirements of this subsection.

(e) If **[a former licensee] AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS FORMERLY** on **[inactive] UNINSURED** status who has failed to renew the **[inactive] UNINSURED** status within 2 years of its expiration reapplies for that status, the State Board shall require the **[former licensee] INDIVIDUAL** to comply with the requirements for obtaining a State license under §§ 6-304 and 6-307 of this subtitle and § 6-503 of this title as well as the requirements for **[inactive] UNINSURED** status under this section.

(f) The State Board shall reactivate the State license of an individual who is on **[inactive] UNINSURED** status, if the individual:

(1) meets the renewal requirements that are in effect when the individual requests the reactivation of the State license;

(2) submits to the State Board an application for reactivation on the form that the State Board provides; and

- (3) pays to the State Board a reactivation fee set by the State Board.

6–312.

(a) The State Board shall reinstate the State license of an individual who is not on [inactive] **UNINSURED** status and who has failed to renew the State license for any reason, if the individual:

(1) applies to the State Board for reinstatement within 2 years after the State license expires;

(2) meets the renewal requirements of § 6–310 of this subtitle; and

(3) in addition to the renewal fee required under § 6–310 of this subtitle, pays to the State Board a reinstatement fee set by the State Board.

(b) If an individual who has failed to renew the State license for any reason applies for reinstatement more than 2 years after the State license has expired, the State Board shall require the individual to pay a reinstatement fee set by the State Board, and comply with the requirements for obtaining a State license under §§ 6–304 and 6–307 of this subtitle and § 6–503 of this title.

6–313.

(a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a county or local government may employ an individual as an electrical inspector only if the individual:

(i) holds a State license or local license, as applicable;

(ii) previously held, within the last 5 years, a State license or local license, as applicable, that was not suspended or revoked; or

(iii) is certified by:

1. the International Code Council as a combination inspector or as an electrical inspector for residential or commercial buildings;

2. the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners; or

3. a certifying entity that is comparable to the entity listed in item 1 or 2 of this item.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply to a county or local government that uses code inspectors or combination building code inspectors to conduct

trade-specific inspections on residential or commercial buildings to determine compliance with adopted electrical codes or related building codes.

(b) An individual may not have any financial interest in any electrical business while employed by the State, a county, or a local government as an electrical inspector.

(c) (1) On appointment or employment as an electrical inspector, the individual:

(i) shall place the State license of the individual on [inactive] **UNINSURED** status; and

(ii) except for the renewal fee, shall meet the [inactive] **UNINSURED** status requirements of § 6–311 of this subtitle.

(2) The State Board may issue an electrical inspector identification card to an electrical inspector who has placed the State license on [inactive] **UNINSURED** status.

(3) The State Board may not charge a fee to issue the identification card.

(d) The State Board may change the status of an electrical inspector to individual [inactive] **UNINSURED** status, if the electrical inspector:

(1) meets the [inactive] **UNINSURED** status requirements of § 6–311 of this subtitle; and

(2) pays an [inactive] **UNINSURED** status fee set by the State Board.

(e) On termination of the appointment or employment of an individual as an electrical inspector, the State Board shall reactivate the State license of the individual who is on [inactive] **UNINSURED** status, without examination, if the individual meets the reactivation requirements for a State license under § 6–311(f) of this subtitle, including payment of the reactivation fee.

6–604.

(a) This section does not apply to a State licensee on [inactive] **UNINSURED** status.

(b) A **LICENSED** master electrician [who is licensed by the State Board and provides electrical services or], a person to whom a **LICENSED** master electrician [licensed by the State Board] assigns a local registration under this title [shall], **OR ANOTHER PERSON WHO ENGAGES IN THE BUSINESS OF PROVIDING ELECTRICAL SERVICES MAY NOT CONTRACT TO PROVIDE ELECTRICAL SERVICES UNLESS THE ELECTRICAL WORK, INCLUDING COMPLETED OPERATIONS, OF THE LICENSED MASTER**

**ELECTRICIAN, PERSON ASSIGNED A LOCAL REGISTRATION, OR PERSON WHO ENGAGES IN THE BUSINESS OF PROVIDING ELECTRICAL SERVICES IS COVERED BY LIABILITY INSURANCE:**

(1) [maintain] **FOR** general liability [insurance] in the amount of at least \$300,000; **AND**

(2) [maintain] **FOR** property damage [insurance] in the amount of at least \$100,000[; and

(3) submit proof of the required insurance to the State Board].

**(C) (1) THE INSURANCE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE BOUGHT:**

**(I) BY A MASTER ELECTRICIAN; OR**

**(II) FOR A MASTER ELECTRICIAN, BY A PERSON WHO ENGAGES IN THE BUSINESS OF PROVIDING ELECTRICAL SERVICES AND EMPLOYS THE MASTER ELECTRICIAN.**

**(2) THE INSURANCE REQUIREMENT OF THIS SECTION IS NOT MEANT TO COVER ELECTRICAL SERVICES THAT A MASTER ELECTRICIAN PROVIDES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE PERSON WHO CARRIES THE INSURANCE.**

**(D) (1) A LICENSED APPRENTICE ELECTRICIAN OR LICENSED JOURNEYPerson ELECTRICIAN IN THE EMPLOY OF A LICENSED MASTER ELECTRICIAN NEED NOT OBTAIN SEPARATE INSURANCE WHILE PROVIDING OR ASSISTING IN PROVIDING ELECTRICAL SERVICES UNDER THE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF THE LICENSED MASTER ELECTRICIAN.**

**(2) SUBJECT TO THE RESTRICTIONS OF § 6-311 OF THIS TITLE REGARDING UNINSURED STATUS, UNINSURED LICENSEES WHO HAVE HAD THEIR UNINSURED STATUS APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD NEED NOT OBTAIN INSURANCE WHILE MAINTAINING UNINSURED STATUS.**

**[(c) (E) (1) An applicant for a State license shall submit proof of the insurance required under this section to the State Board with the license application.**

(2) The State Board may not issue a State license to an applicant to whom the insurance requirements of this section would apply unless the applicant submits proof of the insurance.



**[(d)] (F)** Unless an applicant meets the insurance requirements of this section, the State Board may not renew a State license of the applicant to whom the insurance requirements of this section would apply.

**[(e)] (G)** If the insurance required under this section is canceled, the insurer shall notify the State Board within 10 days after the date of cancellation.

**[(f)] (H)** If a local jurisdiction requires **[an applicant for a local license]** **A MASTER ELECTRICIAN OR OTHER PERSON WHO ENGAGES IN THE BUSINESS OF PROVIDING ELECTRICAL SERVICES** to execute a bond to the local jurisdiction, the applicant may satisfy the bond requirement by submitting proof of the insurance required under this section.

**(I) THE STATE BOARD SHALL SPECIFY ON EACH LICENSE WHETHER THE LICENSE HOLDER MEETS THE INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

**Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2023.**