



House Bill 1262

Maryland Electricians Act - Revisions

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Economics Matters Committee

Date: March 9, 2021

From: Michael Sanderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1262. This bill presents a broad revision and modernization of Maryland's laws governing electricians and related employees, and generally respects matters of county concern raised during the lengthy process finally yielding this legislation.

A multi-stakeholder process has yielded a comprehensive bill seeking to address concerns from the regulated industry, while respecting the central concerns of local jurisdictions. MACo supports this overall compromise as a productive resolution to a lengthy debate.

The bill replaces county licensure with a registration process, that would leave intact the local ability to discipline or withdraw local registration for actors who fail to comply with local requirements. This component is important to counties, who have over the years responded to local concerns with their own standards for professionals. In prior years, counties had opposed reform legislation as it did not protect these reasonable local assurances.

The bill also envisions a future oversight of low-voltage electrical professionals and systems. Counties would expect to be a stakeholder in the development and approval of that eventual regime, but do not raise concerns with the general framework as laid out in HB 1262.

HB 1262 can bring to a close a multi-year effort to modernize and streamline the licensure, registration, and oversight of professional electricians in Maryland and accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **HB 1262**.