

SB 762 Letter (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Clark, Tom

Position: FAV



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

GEORGE C. HOGAN: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 762 MARYLAND ELECTRICIANS ACT MARCH 2, 2021

To: Hon. Paul G. Pinsky, Chair, and members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Tom Clark, Political Director, Licensed Electrician, IBEW Local 26

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee, I enthusiastically encourage you to **support SB 762**, a much-needed bill that has been years in the making. Introduced in a bipartisan manner and applauded by Electricians throughout the state, SB 762 coordinates the licensing and regulations of Electrical Journeypersons and Apprentices.

Maryland is one of the last states that does not issue "statewide" licenses. This antiquated practice could have an electrician and their employer having to apply, test, and pay for over 20 county, city and jurisdictional licenses. If this bill passes it will greatly reduce the red tape and confusion and allow businesses to thrive in the Freestate. It puts everyone on the same page and gives a young apprentice or journeyperson a specific set of rules to follow as they safely practice their trade in our state. As a practicing electrician in the DMV, I have found that most of my colleagues get tested, licensed and pay fees to the District of Columbia and Virginia because they do offer "statewide" licenses. Currently, most electricians avoid being licensed in Maryland because of the confusion, leaving our state without the revenue generated by the fees to carry a statewide license. This bill does two things: Makes our electrical licensing uniform and adds money to the state coffers. WIN! WIN!

This bill only effects a tiny portion of Marylanders, but it is good for our State and the women and men that work every day, lighting and powering the great state of Maryland. Please vote for uniformity among the jurisdictions and **support SB 762**.

Thank you,
Tom Clark
Tclark@ibewlocal26.org



SB 762 Support MD Electricians Act EH &E.pdf

Uploaded by: Demchuk, Pete

Position: FAV

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building Trades Council — AFL-CIO

Baltimore Port Council

Baltimore Metro Council — AFL-CIO

Central MD Labor Council — AFL-CIO

Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO

Maryland State - D.C. — AFL-CIO

National Safety Council



AFL-CIO-CLC

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

JOHN L. RANKIN, President

DAVID W. SPRINGHAM, JR., Recording Secretary

MICHAEL J. McHALE, Financial Secretary

PETER P. DEMCHUK, Business Manager

OFFICE:

2701 W. PATAPSCO AVE

SUITE 200

Phone: 410-247-5511

FAX: 410-536-4338

Written Testimony of
Peter Demchuk, Business Manager, IBEW LOCAL 24
Before the
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee On
SB 762 – Maryland Electricians Act - Revisions
SUPPORT

January 26, 2021

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony **Supporting** SB 762.

For the record, my name is Peter Demchuk. I am a 41- year member, and the Business Manager, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 24 located in Baltimore. I represent approximately 2,000 hardworking, Maryland tax paying electricians. I am a lifelong resident of Maryland and reside in District 7 of Baltimore County.

Being an electrician is one of the most dangerous occupations in America. Electricians are faced with life or death issues of safety every day. That's not hyperbole or exaggeration, life or death, every day. That's just in regards to themselves and the other workers on the construction site. Over 160 electrical fatalities occurred on a jobsite in 2019 and 68% of those deaths were to workers younger than 45. That's not even considering the safety of the end user of the electrical system or the destruction of property that could occur with an improperly wired structure. An estimated 24,000 residential electrical fires are reported to US fire departments every year. This results in over 300 deaths and over 870 million dollars in property loss. Electricity is invisible and dangerous, for the workers installing it and the people using it.

Right now, Maryland has an inadequate standard for who can and can't do electrical work. We see a lot of untrained and unqualified people installing work on residential and commercial projects all over our jurisdiction. Many of these workers are particularly vulnerable, to being exploited and exposed to unsafe working conditions. Some are not even residents of the State and out-of-state contractors bring workforces from as far away as Florida or Texas to take work from Maryland residents. At least with licensing requirements there would be a standard for every individual doing electric work in the State. That way when out-of-town contractors come to Maryland, their workforce would have to be as safe and as well trained as what we have here.

An Electrical Licensing bill has been discussed many times and for many years and the IBEW has been here to provide testimony. We can't kick the can down the road any longer. If Covid has taught us anything it's that we should head off problems before they happen and not after. We should be proactive and not reactive when it comes to protecting workers and Maryland residents. We know this is an issue that needs to be addressed. We need to address it now before something tragic happens that would have been avoided. Then we will all be asking ourselves why these standards weren't already in place.

This bill is not perfect, but it's a very good bill and when the workgroup met this past year there was compromise! But it addresses real areas of concern in the industry. It's not often that my non-union counterparts are sitting on the same side of an issue as we are here but that's how important this issue is to our Industry and the residents of this great State of Maryland.

That's why I'm asking for you to give it a **Favorable** report. Thank you again to the committee for your time, and thank you to Senator McCray for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,



Peter P. Demchuk

PPD:clr
AFL-CIO
OPEIU # 2

SB 762 - MD DC AFL-CIO - SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Edwards, Donna

Position: FAV



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

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President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer

Gerald W. Jackson

SB 762 – Maryland Electricians Act – Revisions
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 2, 2021

SUPPORT

Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 762 – Maryland Electricians Act – Revisions. My name is Donna Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC, AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

The work of electricians is incredibly important to the operations of businesses and government, as well as the safety and comfort of Marylanders. Indeed, every facet of our lives is affected by the work done by electricians in our State. Ensuring that we are demanding the highest quality training and providing licensure based on solid standards is of paramount importance to the lives and livelihoods of Marylanders, every day.

Electrical work is, by definition, extremely dangerous. The amount of power that electricians deal with on job sites requires the highest levels of safety and mitigation training. Maryland, currently, has an inadequate standard for those who perform electrical work. And the consequences for that can be dire. According to figures from the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), electrical failures and malfunctions were the 2nd leading cause of home fires in the United States from 2012-2016¹. SB 762 revises the Maryland Electricians Act to strengthen the standards by which an electrician can be licensed to operate in Maryland.

We need higher standards for licensing electricians for the safety and reliability of electricity in Maryland. We should demand a highly-skilled and trained workforce in installing, repairing, and maintaining electrical systems. Our current standards are insufficient and in dire need of updating, and for these reasons, we **urge a favorable report on SB 762.**

¹ <https://www.esfi.org/>

SB 762 Maryland Electricians Act Revisions Testimo

Uploaded by: Guido, Jeffry

Position: FAV



Maryland Senate – Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair: Paul G. Pinsky
Vice Chair: Cheryl Kagan

Senate Bill 762– Maryland Electricians Act - Revisions

Position: Support

- Electrical Workers
- Insulators
- Boilermakers
- United Association
- Roofers
- Cement Masons
- Teamsters
- Laborers
- Bricklayers
- Ironworkers
- Sheet Metal Workers
- Elevator Constructors
- Painters
- Operating Engineers
- Carpenters

The Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council supports SB 762. State Licensing of Electricians provides a standard testing procedure that ensures an individual has a working knowledge of the National Electrical Codes. Each year of training for IBEW electrician apprentices includes at least 210 hours of classroom instruction and 10,000 hours of on-the-job training. In the classroom, apprentices learn electrical theory, blueprint reading, mathematics, electrical code requirements, and safety and first-aid practices. They also may receive specialized training in soldering, communications, fire alarm systems, and cranes and elevators.

Education continues throughout an electrician's career. Electricians may need to take classes to learn about changes to the National Electrical Code®, and they often complete regular safety programs, manufacturer-specific training, and management training courses. Classes on such topics as low-voltage voice and data systems, telephone systems, video systems, and solar and wind energy systems.

Job safety is paramount with electrical work on construction sites with the lock out/tag out requirement saving countless lives from electrocution. It also protects the wages and working conditions of all licensed electricians by requiring any out of state contractors to be licensed and to employ Maryland licensed electricians.

Licensing protects public health and safety. Very few of us think twice before flipping a switch, running our appliance's and increasingly plugging in our vehicles.

We ask for a favorable report by the committee.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Guido

(E) jguido@bdcbt.org (O) 301-909-1071 (C) 240-687-5195

5829 Allentown Rd Camp Spring MD 20746

Value on Display... Everyday.



SB 762 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: McCray, Cory

Position: FAV

CORY V. McCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

Budget and Taxation Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Health and Human Services Subcommittee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill 762

Bill Title: Maryland Electricians Act - Revisions

Hearing Date: March 2, 2021 - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair: The Honorable Paul Pinsky; Vice Chair: The Honorable Cheryl Kagan

I write to you today in **support** of Senate Bill 762. Electricians have a great responsibility of providing power in our homes, and in the private and public sector industries. Electrician duties include the electrical wiring of new building infrastructures to maintenance repairs. It would be virtually impossible for our world to operate without them, especially in this pivotal moment as many have transitioned to virtual working formats.

The purpose of this Bill is to change the name of the Maryland State Board of Master Electricians to the State Board of Electricians. Further, it would require the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to adopt a licensing program for low-voltage electricians by December 1, 2024, if legislation is not passed prior to this date. Currently, the United States does not offer a national licensing standard; rather each state certifies a licensed electrician. Electricians are typically categorized as either linemen (working on systems of higher-voltage such as power lines and communications – cable, internet, or phone – lines) or wiremen (working on lower-voltage projects such as in residences and commercial properties). Therefore, it is necessary to establish a separate licensing program for those working on lower-voltage projects.

Additionally, Senate Bill 762 takes into consideration the recommendations from the Maryland State Electricians Licensing Work Group. As Maryland would transition to providing a statewide journeyman license, local jurisdictions would no longer provide licenses, but rather register electricians locally.

If enacted, Senate Bill 762 would take effect on July 1, 2021.

In efforts to increase efficiency in the electrical industry and to protect consumers, we hope that you will move for a **favorable** report of Senate Bill 762.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray
State Senator

SB762_LOS_Maryland Electricians Act - Revisions.pd

Uploaded by: O'Keeffe, Kevin

Position: FAV



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March 2, 2021

To: Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support Senate Bill 762 – Maryland Electricians Act - Revisions

IEC Chesapeake supports Senate Bill (SB) 762 and asks for a favorable report. SB 762 seeks to create a statewide journey person electrician license. The creation of this new statewide license is good for business, the electrical industry, and consumers. IEC Chesapeake believes that reciprocity with neighboring jurisdictions will make it easier for Maryland electricians to do business in this region.

SB 762 relies on information from a variety of groups who participated in the 2020 Maryland State Electricians Licensing Work Group. The proposed legislation will create much needed efficiencies in the electrical industry. The bill will also create additional protections for consumers. In addition, SB 762 takes into consideration the concerns of local governments and their electrical boards as Maryland transitions toward the implementation of a statewide journey person electrician license.

For nearly a decade, IEC Chesapeake has worked closely with its industry partners and local and state officials in an effort to create a statewide journey person electrician license. Now is the time to pass SB 762 which is a common sense solution to make the electrical industry more efficient for both businesses and consumers.

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. Our headquarters are located in Laurel, Maryland. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship program for training electricians. In addition, IEC Chesapeake promotes green economic growth by providing education and working with contractor members, industry partners, government policy makers and inspectors to increase the use of renewable energy.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 1-301-621-9545, extension 114 or at gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at kevin@kokeeffelaw.com.



SB0762-EHE_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Sanderson, Michael

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 762

Maryland Electricians Act - Revisions

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs Committee

Date: March 2, 2021

From: Michael Sanderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 762. 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 SB 762.

SB 762 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 **SB 762**.

Written Testimony SB 762.pdf

Uploaded by: Heaton, Chris

Position: FWA

Written Testimony

Chris Heaton, Vice President of Advocacy & Public Affairs

RE: SB 762

To The Honorable Chair and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Electronic Security Association, I wish to submit our support for SB 762 with amendments that will clarify what is meant by “low-voltage electrician” or “limited energy integrator” as we believe the term should be defined.

Without defining what “low-voltage” is, it will be impossible for authorities having jurisdiction (AHJ) or low-voltage integrators themselves to know whether they are exempt under this licensing framework. We feel it is important that ALL legislators know the underlying intent may be to undermine an entire segment of companies that do business in Maryland. Given the time, we will certainly make the case with members of the House and Senate that excluding the definition of “low-voltage” necessarily undermines low-voltage integrators in the state.

We respectfully submit our support for this legislation that includes the following definition for “limited energy integrators” which we believe should be the proper term used for “low-voltage electrician”.

“Limited energy integrator” means an individual who has the experience, knowledge, and skill to provide limited energy services on the load side of a transformer, which is connected directly by a licensed electrician or by plugging into an existing receptacle. Voltage is not to exceed 100 VAC or VDC unless listed to prevent hazards to life and property. Installation in a manner that complies with applicable plans, specifications, codes, or laws.

ESA is the largest trade association in the United States representing large and small businesses that professionally install, service and monitor electronic security and life safety systems for the public. ESA member companies represent more than 70 percent of the market for intrusion, fire alarm, access control and video surveillance systems, which are a vital component of public safety. They employ over 5000,000 security industry professionals, and service millions of residential and commercial clients. ESA has approximately 2,000 members across all 50 states, U.S. Territories, Canada and several countries.

md testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Hill, Steve

Position: FWA



**Satellite Broadcasting
& Communications
Association**

**Steve Hill
President**

**TESTIMONY OF THE SATELLITE BROADCASTING
& COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION In Support With Amendment To SB 762**

Chairmen McCray and members of the committee. The Satellite Broadcasting & Communications Association ("SBCA") respectfully submits this testimony in support with amendment to SB 762 regarding electrical licensure.

SBCA is the trade association for the consumer satellite industry representing all segments of the industry, including satellite television and internet providers along with retailers and technicians.

SBCA will support the bill with an amendment properly defining our industry in order to ensure we are not unfairly regulated. The bill as it is currently written does not expressly define our industry nor the technologies that we install. By adding the amendment, it would allow the legislature to clearly define the work of electricians without harming system integrators whose work include items such as home entertainment systems and satellite dishes.

Should the bill with amendment pass we would be happy to work with you and members of this committee to help further define and craft licensing regulations surrounding the work that the system integrator community performs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony regarding this matter.

Respectfully

Steve Hill
President
SBCA

SENATE BILL 762 ammendments.pdf

Uploaded by: Hill, Steve

Position: FWA

SENATE BILL 762 - AMENDMENT

FOR the purpose of altering the powers and duties of the State Board of Master Electricians; changing the name of the State Board of Master Electricians to the State Board of Electricians; requiring the Department, on or before a certain date, to ~~form a workgroup to adopt~~ provide draft legislation ~~regulations~~ necessary for the regulation and licensing of ~~low-voltage electricians~~ limited energy integrators if certain legislation is not enacted on or before a certain date; prohibiting, beginning on a certain date, local jurisdictions from issuing certain licenses; replacing local electrician licenses with local electrician registrations; authorizing local jurisdictions that issued certain licenses before a certain date to issue registrations under certain circumstances; prohibiting a certain local jurisdiction, beginning on a certain date, from registering a master-level, journeyman-level, or apprentice-level electrician unless it administers certain examinations and registers certain information with the State Board; requiring certain local jurisdictions to report certain information to the Department on or before a certain date each year; allowing a local jurisdiction to take certain actions against certain licensees under certain circumstances; requiring certain local jurisdictions to administer a certain examination in a certain manner; requiring each county and each municipal corporation to enforce certain provisions of law and adopt certain regulations or require certain State licenses under certain circumstances; altering certain licensing and examination requirements; repealing a certain provision of law stating that certain provisions of law do not require certain individuals to hold a State license; altering certain reciprocity requirements for certain individuals authorized to provide electrical services in other states; establishing certain continuing education requirements; authorizing the State Board to waive certain examination requirements and certain experience requirements for certain licensees in certain circumstances; altering the circumstances under which the State Board may deny a license to an applicant, reprimand a licensee, or suspend or revoke a license; authorizing the State Board to set certain fees; providing for the construction of a certain provision of law; requiring a master electrician to display certain information in a certain manner; requiring a licensee to give the State Board certain notice of a change in certain information; prohibiting a person from taking certain actions without a license; establishing certain penalties for certain violations; requiring the State Board to provide a certain notice to each local board in the State; altering certain definitions; defining certain terms; making stylistic and conforming changes; and generally relating to the State Board of Electricians and the licensing and regulation of electricians.

6-101.

“Limited energy integrator” means an individual who has the experience, knowledge, and skill to provide limited energy services on the load side of a transformer, which is connected directly by a licensed electrician or by plugging into an existing receptacle. Voltage of such load side of a

transformer shall not to exceed 100 Volts Alternating Current or Volts Direct Current unless listed to prevent hazards to life and property. Installation shall be in a manner that complies with applicable plans, specifications, codes, or laws.

6-104.

If the state has not enacted legislation establishing a licensing program for individuals who provide or assist in providing ~~low voltage electrical~~ limited energy services on or before July 1, 2024, the ~~Department~~ General Assembly shall, on or before December 1, 2024, ~~adopt regulations~~ consider legislation necessary for the regulation and licensing of ~~low voltage electricians~~ limited energy integrators as prescribed by the following workgroup.

On or before July 1, 2021, the Department shall convene a workgroup to study and make recommendations on the licensing, regulation, and qualifications for individuals who provide limited energy integrator services in the state.

The workgroup shall include:

- (1) a representative of the Department;
- (2) a representative from an electrician licensing authority in a local government;
- (3) a state or locally licensed electrician with varying years of experience;
- (4) an electrical inspector;
- (5) 4 limited energy integrators;
- (6) a representative of an association that represents the integrator community.
- (7) a representative of a manufacturer of integration equipment.

On or before December 1, 2021, the Department shall, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, submit a copy of legislation approved by a majority of the workgroup to the General Assembly on the findings and recommendations of the workgroup convened under this section.

CCCA Statement on Maryland SB 762 of 2021 2-26-21.

Uploaded by: Kiddoo, David

Position: FWA



Statement on 2021 Maryland Senate Bill 762 Proposal

Contact: David B. Kiddoo
Executive Director
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+1-410-353-3989

March 2, 2021

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: CCCA Position on SB 762: Favorable with Amendment (Opposed as is)

Dear Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee –

On behalf of the members of the Communications Cable & Connectivity Association (CCCA), we greatly appreciate being a part of this important dialog during your legislative cycles in 2020 and 2021. Here is our written testimony, along with the proposed amendment on Senate Bill 762, an Act concerning revisions to the Maryland Electricians Act.

CCCA is also aware of many other Trade Associations and entities that share these same positions, on behalf of “Integrators”, who install low energy cabling and equipment per the Class 2 and Class 3 requirements in the NFPA 70, National Electrical Code®.

As introduced, SB 762 has numerous consequences for the small businesses of commercial and residential Integrators in Maryland and will add confusion and unintended consequences for Contractors. CCCA opposes the legislation as drafted. However, CCCA and our members can support this legislation only if an Amendment is provided to exempt the work of limited energy Integrators from the electrical licensing and training requirements for low-voltage work outlined in SB 762.

As we have testified in previous hearings and the MD Department of Labor workshop last year on this same subject, SB 762 does not make the necessary delineation between the work of Integrators and the work of electrical contractors on high-voltage electrical systems connected to the grid. The work of limited energy integrators is separate from the electrical trade and should not have the same requirements of an electrical license.

Request for Mutual Dialogue and Trade Association Collaboration

The definition of “provide electrical services” (Page 4, lines 8 – 13) is not accurate to fit the definition of cabling & connectivity equipment infrastructure, now and into the future. This definition would force limited energy integrators working throughout Maryland to become an electrical Contractor to continue the work they have been trained to do safely for many years. This definition will have a significant impact by increasing the cost of commercial and residential projects and determine who can work on information technology systems projects throughout Maryland. In addition, **this would put an extreme strain on the ability of our Maryland workforce to meet the current and pending demands of 5G and other “SMART” city / community requirements.**

The term “Licensed Low-Voltage Electrician” (Page 6, 25 - 29) is not appropriate and will certainly cause confusion in the marketplace. The work of limited energy integrators is separate from the electrical trade and a low-voltage license should not be referenced as an electrical license. The education and training are different for both trades and the statewide license should respect this difference.

It is vital for the consumers of Maryland to differentiate between the two trades and services provided. It is important the legislature and not the Department of Labor adopt limited energy regulations and licensing requirements for Integrators. The work of limited energy Integrators should not be bundled into a single Board of Electricians containing insufficient representation with the necessary knowledge of the information technology systems Integrator trade.

This Senate Bill has no representation on the State Board for limited energy Integrators. This is not proper representation for this critical, growing industry. The Board currently would determine the subjects of the low-voltage exam without any proper representation of the low-voltage profession. In addition, SB 762 would place a severe burden on limited energy Integrators by forcing them to meet the excessive master electrician experience requirements and obtain a statewide license which does not properly represent their profession.

The legislation would also limit the growth of the information technology systems industry with the State only giving examinations at least twice a year. For the growth of the information technology system industry, CCCA encourages that the low-voltage exam be given at least monthly or utilize a testing center.

The current low-voltage requirements of 432 classroom hours and a 6,000 hour (3 year) apprenticeship program (Page 14, lines 6 – 11) are very high bars and does not respect the proper and appropriate educational and training needs of the low-voltage industry. Education and training are important, but continuing education on technology applications is more important for our members to meet the needs of their clients.

The legislation also has no grandfathering clause for companies that have worked in the residential technology systems industry for many years. This legislation would also eliminate the three years of experience credit required (page 15). Furthermore, the legislation has an effective date of July 1, 2021 and this short timeframe will not allow many companies to prepare for the numerous requirements outlined in SB 762.

Request for Mutual Dialogue and Trade Association Collaboration

Another area of concern in Senate Bill 762 is the requirement that a licensed master electrician or journeyman electrician “shall be present at each job site in which electrical services are provided.” This is a difficult requirement for limited energy Integrators as many are small businesses with limited staffs. As introduced, electricians are the only ones allowed to apply for permits for the many different projects that will now require an electrical permit. This will limit the number of projects completed throughout Maryland.

By having broad definitions for “provide electrical services” and excessive licensing requirements, this problematic language would force limited energy Integrators to become master electricians or journeyman electricians to complete any project in Maryland.

For these many concerns listed above, CCCA asks for support to include an amendment (enclosed) to Senate Bill 762 to differentiate between the work of limited energy integrators and electricians in Maryland.

On behalf of CCCA and our Maryland-based members and Integrators, thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns with Senate Bill 762 in its current form. CCCA looks forward to working with Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, Staff and other industry stakeholders to address our concerns with SB 762.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important issue.

Respectfully,



David B. Kiddoo
Executive Director
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Enclosed: Amendment for Maryland Senate Bill 762

About CCCA

CCCA was formed on the principle that the industry could be served and strengthened by leveraging the efforts of individual leading firms into a single “voice” and mission that would benefit the structured cabling community and its supply chain. Today, the association’s backbone is an active Board of Directors and working committees that manage the association, execute our mission and provide a platform for member benefits and initiatives.

Mission Statement

CCCA is a major resource for well researched, fact-based information and education on the important issues, technologies and structured cabling products impacting the current and future needs of the building network and cabling infrastructure. CCCA is proactive in supporting and participating in codes and standards bodies and other trade, industry and safety organizations, which affect the quality, performance and societal needs of the structured cabling infrastructure.

CCCA focuses its mission on **“What You Need to Know”** to stay abreast and well-informed on topics and issues vital to the structured cabling and connectivity industry.

Communications Cable & Connectivity Association
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 600 South
Washington, DC 20004-2533

For further information, visit the CCCA website www.cccassoc.org or contact David B. Kiddoo, Executive Director, at dkiddoo@cccassoc.org or by phone at +1.410.353.3989

Maryland Senate Bill 762 Amendments Proposal 2-26-

Uploaded by: Kiddoo, David

Position: FWA

SENATE BILL 762 - AMENDMENT

FOR the purpose of altering the powers and duties of the State Board of Master Electricians; changing the name of the State Board of Master Electricians to the State Board of Electricians; requiring the Department, on or before a certain date, to ~~form a workgroup to adopt~~ provide draft legislation ~~regulations~~ necessary for the regulation and licensing of ~~low-voltage electricians~~ limited energy integrators if certain legislation is not enacted on or before a certain date; prohibiting, beginning on a certain date, local jurisdictions from issuing certain licenses; replacing local electrician licenses with local electrician registrations; authorizing local jurisdictions that issued certain licenses before a certain date to issue registrations under certain circumstances; prohibiting a certain local jurisdiction, beginning on a certain date, from registering a master-level, journeyman-level, or apprentice-level electrician unless it administers certain examinations and registers certain information with the State Board; requiring certain local jurisdictions to report certain information to the Department on or before a certain date each year; allowing a local jurisdiction to take certain actions against certain licensees under certain circumstances; requiring certain local jurisdictions to administer a certain examination in a certain manner; requiring each county and each municipal corporation to enforce certain provisions of law and adopt certain regulations or require certain State licenses under certain circumstances; altering certain licensing and examination requirements; repealing a certain provision of law stating that certain provisions of law do not require certain individuals to hold a State license; altering certain reciprocity requirements for certain individuals authorized to provide electrical services in other states; establishing certain continuing education requirements; authorizing the State Board to waive certain examination requirements and certain experience requirements for certain licensees in certain circumstances; altering the circumstances under which the State Board may deny a license to an applicant, reprimand a licensee, or suspend or revoke a license; authorizing the State Board to set certain fees; providing for the construction of a certain provision of law; requiring a master electrician to display certain information in a certain manner; requiring a licensee to give the State Board certain notice of a change in certain information; prohibiting a person from taking certain actions without a license; establishing certain penalties for certain violations; requiring the State Board to provide a certain notice to each local board in the State; altering certain definitions; defining certain terms; making stylistic and conforming changes; and generally relating to the State Board of Electricians and the licensing and regulation of electricians.

6-101.

“Limited energy integrator” means an individual who has the experience, knowledge, and skill to provide limited energy services on the load side of a transformer, which is connected directly by a licensed electrician or by plugging into an existing receptacle. Voltage of such load side of a

transformer shall not to exceed 100 Volts Alternating Current or Volts Direct Current unless listed to prevent hazards to life and property. Installation shall be in a manner that complies with applicable plans, specifications, codes, or laws.

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- (1) a representative of the Department;
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- (3) a state or locally licensed electrician with varying years of experience;
- (4) an electrical inspector;
- (5) 4 limited energy integrators;
- (6) a representative of an association that represents the integrator community.
- (7) a representative of a manufacturer of integration equipment.

On or before December 1, 2021, the Department shall, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, submit a copy of legislation approved by a majority of the workgroup to the General Assembly on the findings and recommendations of the workgroup convened under this section.

C:\Users\markovmo\Desktop\HPE MD SB762 Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: Markov, Monica

Position: FWA



Hewlett Packard Enterprise

February 26, 2021

The Honorable Chairman Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Senate Committee on Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1991

Subject: Senate Bill 762, Support with Amendments

Dear Chairman Pinsky and members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Maryland Electricians Act – Revisions (Senate Bill 762). While we support the overall intent to modernize the state’s electrician licensing process, we believe certain clarifications are necessary to ensure this legislation is effective as intended.

HPE and its subsidiary, Aruba Networks, manufactures and sells a range of technology products including networking, servers, and storage hardware. Some of our products make extensive use of Power over Ethernet (PoE) systems. This technology has been confirmed to be safe for installation by unlicensed professionals by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), which produces the National Electrical Code. PoE systems are clearly distinct from other types of circuits given their complete safety from shock or fire hazard and comparative ease of installation.

The attached amendment would establish regulations for individuals who install these kinds of devices that do not exceed 100 volts. This language will allow Marylanders to continue utilizing these devices while maintaining the intentions of the underlying legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I'm more than happy to explain in greater detail our concerns with this bill.

Sincerely,

Monica Markov
State & Local Government Affairs
832 502 0660 Office
Washington, DC
hpe.com

C:\Users\markovmo\Desktop\SENATE BILL 762 ammendme

Uploaded by: Markov, Monica

Position: FWA

SENATE BILL 762 - AMENDMENT

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SB762 CHESSA Amend.pdf

Uploaded by: Murray, David

Position: FWA



**Before the General Assembly of the State of Maryland
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 2, 2021**

**Testimony of David W. Murray
Executive Director
Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association
SB 762: Maryland Electricians Act - Revisions
FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on [SB 762](#). I serve as Executive Director of the Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association, CHESSA, formerly known as the Maryland-DC-Virginia Solar Energy Industries Association (MDV-SEIA). CHESSA is a regional trade association representing over 10,000 solar installers, developers, manufacturers, and other solar workers in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Our members also provide energy storage solutions to households, businesses, schools, local governments, and utilities throughout the region. CHESSA is a recognized state affiliate of the Solar Energy Industries Association.

This legislation centers upon a statewide licensure of Master Electricians, Journeypersons and apprentices. CHESSA supports these provisions. The association believes it will help facilitate greater career opportunities for Marylanders, as well as help businesses perform key electrical services across the state. We applaud Senator McCray for his leadership in this sector.

However, this bill as drafted contains a provision that creates a burdensome mandate for the solar industry. In particular, the extra burden is placed primarily upon businesses that perform rooftop residential installations. On Page 29, lines 7-9, Master Electricians or Journeypersons are required to be onsite for the provision of electrical services. In other words, he or she will need to stand by for the entirety of a solar installation, even for activities such as mounting a racking system or hoisting panels up on a roof.

SB 762 should be amended to retain the status quo for small, residential and commercial solar systems. The basis for CHESSA's recommendation is as follows:

Onsite Requirement Seeks to Address a Non-Existent Problem

There has been no evidence presented to demonstrate the onsite requirement is necessary. The Maryland solar industry has successfully installed over 65,000 residential photovoltaic installations without this requirement in place.

Most of the activities associated with installing a residential or small commercial solar array takes place on a roof: mounting a racking system, installing panels, or connecting the modules. This work that does not require the experience of a Master Electrician or journeyperson. Conversely, Master Electricians or Journeypersons are not trained in solar installation, thus



requiring them to be onsite is a waste of their time. The solar installation process already has several checks on quality and code compliance including the design of the system under the supervision of experienced designers, most with NABCEP certification, the permit review and inspection with the AHJ for code compliance, and the utility interconnection review. A Master Electrician reviews every system in the design to apply for a permit from the local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). The local Authority Having Jurisdiction inspects the project to ensure it can be safely interconnected to the grid.

In the “[Workgroup to Study Licensing and the Provision of Electrical Services in Maryland](#)” hosted by the Department of Labor in the fall of 2020, the solar industry requested data or evidence from other workgroup members that could demonstrate why this requirement should now apply to photovoltaic installations. We never received any response to that effect.

CHESSA encourages SB 762’s proponents to compare the quality or safety record of solar installations in the jurisdictions where this requirement is in place against those without the onsite requirement. However, CHESSA is not aware of any evidence demonstrating the onsite requirement correlates with safer, higher quality, or more efficient installations.

It is also worth pointing out that Massachusetts has an onsite requirement like one proposed in SB 762, but there is no evidence Massachusetts has better or safer residential installs than those in other parts of the country. Should Maryland adopt SB 762 as written, Maryland would join in a small minority of states with this requirement.

The Onsite Requirement Raises the Cost of Solar

Without this amendment, the Maryland Electricians Act would add \$250 - \$1,000 in costs to each residential solar array. This is because the Master Electrician or Journeyman would need to travel to the job site and stay present for the entirety of the solar installation. They are unlikely to participate in work they are unwilling or not trained to do – such as rooftop installation. Some solar companies solely have Master Electricians – and no Journeymen - on staff, and thus would have to pay the upper bound of this range for each residential installation.

Will Create a “Choke Point” in Residential Solar Installs

The Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association interviewed several of its members to determine the impacts of this requirement, many expressed concerns that residential installations would slow due to this requirement. This is because the requirement creates an artificial labor shortage by mandating select individuals stand by for the totality of the installation.

In Massachusetts, where the onsite requirement applies to the solar industry, firms report challenges hiring and retaining journeymen willing to solely perform solar installs.



Proposed Amendment

CHESSA respectfully requests the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee amend the bill to exempt a small portion of the solar industry from this requirement. CHESSA's proposed text does not impact utility-scale or large, ground-mounted arrays. Rather, only solar arrays smaller than 200 kW, and are meant to power the underlying building are exempted from the bill language.

Page 29, Line 9: Add the following:

AT LEAST ONE LICENSED MASTER ELECTRICIAN OR JOURNEYPERSON ELECTRICIAN SHALL BE PRESENT AT EACH JOB SITE IN WHICH ELECTRICAL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED, "EXCEPT FOR ACCESSORY-USE PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS FEWER THAN TWO HUNDRED KILOWATTS IN TOTAL CAPACITY."

Thank you for your consideration. CHESSA's support of SB 762 is contingent upon the above amendment, or similar measure, adopted by the Committee.

Sincerely,

David Murray
Executive Director
Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association (CHESSA, formerly MDV-SEIA)

Testimony - SB762 Amend - SES 2-26-21.pdf

Uploaded by: Peters, Rick

Position: FWA



Solar Energy Services, Inc.

Over 40 Years

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Amend SB 762

2-26-21

Dear Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

As a Maryland business owner, I want to share a significant concern with the Maryland Electricians Act and its impact on the rooftop solar industry. We employ more than 40 Marylanders, and we have installed solar on well over 1000 homes and businesses in Maryland. While the legislation is primarily focused on statewide licensure, there is a provision that places a burdensome requirement on companies like ours. On Page 29, lines 7-9, the Maryland Electricians Act requires a Master Electrician or Journeyman to be onsite for the provision of electrical services. Thus, he or she will need to be present for the entirety of a solar installation, even for activities such as mounting a racking system or installing panels up on a roof. This work does not require the experience of a Master Electrician or Journeyman. In fact, Master Electricians and Journeymen are not trained in much of the solar installation process, and they would be overpaid for the skills required, even if we could recruit them to participate in this work. Most Master Electricians or Journeymen would object if assigned to participate in rooftop solar installation on a pitched roof.

With over 65,000 solar installs in Maryland to date, there is no evidence this bill is necessary for solar installations. It is very clear that it would slow our ability to provide solar to customers and it would increase costs to the homeowner. We estimate this bill could cost our company more than \$500 per residential installation, a cost that would be passed on to the homeowner, degrading the economics and consumer demand.

Additionally, I fear this bill will cause an artificial labor shortage as we would need to retain additional Journeymen to support this unnecessary requirement.

Without the amendment, this bill would slow residential solar deployment and make it more expensive.

We hope that Maryland avoids this issue by adopting the Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association's proposed amendment. The amendment:



Solar Energy Services, Inc.

Over 40 Years

Page 29, Line 9: Add the following:

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OF TOTAL CAPACITY."**

The solar industry has been a reliable provider of good paying jobs in Maryland over the last decade. We have had little to no safety incidents and have an excellent track record for consumer value and satisfaction. Please consider our amendment to insure we do not add an unnecessary burden to this promising industry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick Peters
President & CEO
Solar Energy Services, Inc.

MD_Cisco SB 762 POE Support w Amendment-jpotterf_v

Uploaded by: Potterf, Jason

Position: FWA



February 26, 2021

The Honorable Chairman Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Senate Committee on Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1991

Re: *SB 762 – Support with Amendments*

Dear Chairman Pinsky and members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

I write on behalf of Cisco to respectfully request amendments be made to SB 762 to prevent unintended hardships in the installation and use of common home and office technology.

Cisco Systems, a global technology company that develops, manufactures and sells networking hardware, telecommunications equipment and technology services.

Not all electrical circuits are hazardous. A well-defined subset of circuits known as limited energy, or sometimes as low voltage, do not pose the same threats to life and property as those installed by electricians. Installation of these circuits is currently regulated locally in Maryland. This license is separate from hazardous voltage electrical licenses such as the one proposed in SB 762.

Limited-energy devices include IP phones, security cameras, internet routers, WiFi access points, audio speakers, badge readers, lighting, cell phone chargers, and many more. The list of devices continues to grow each year. These devices are widely available at local retailers, ready to plug in, and safe to use. Without an appropriate definition of limited energy to differentiate them, SB 762 would require that these everyday devices, and in fact any electrical device, be installed by a licensed electrician.

Much like the Maryland electricians, the Maryland limited energy industry also has a strong desire for a unified statewide license. However, this bill leaves this subject to a future "low-voltage" license bill without properly defining the term "low-voltage". Because "low-voltage" has no single widely-accepted definition, this bill could not only unintentionally overlap with a future limited energy license bill, but also immediately limit our ability to operate in the State of Maryland under existing local regulations. The proposed amendment resolves this concern by properly defining

limited energy work as separate from hazardous electrical services and also defines the scope of a future limited energy license.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony and the attached proposed amendment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JPotterf', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jason Potterf
Cisco Engineering Consultant to Government Affairs
National Electrical Code, Principal, Codemaking Panel 18
Cisco
jpotterf@cisco.com

SENATE BILL 762 - AMENDMENT

FOR the purpose of altering the powers and duties of the State Board of Master Electricians; changing the name of the State Board of Master Electricians to the State Board of Electricians; requiring the Department, on or before a certain date, to ~~form a workgroup to adopt~~ provide draft legislation ~~regulations~~ necessary for the regulation and licensing of ~~low-voltage electricians~~ limited energy integrators if certain legislation is not enacted on or before a certain date; prohibiting, beginning on a certain date, local jurisdictions from issuing certain licenses; replacing local electrician licenses with local electrician registrations; authorizing local jurisdictions that issued certain licenses before a certain date to issue registrations under certain circumstances; prohibiting a certain local jurisdiction, beginning on a certain date, from registering a master-level, journeyman-level, or apprentice-level electrician unless it administers certain examinations and registers certain information with the State Board; requiring certain local jurisdictions to report certain information to the Department on or before a certain date each year; allowing a local jurisdiction to take certain actions against certain licensees under certain circumstances; requiring certain local jurisdictions to administer a certain examination in a certain manner; requiring each county and each municipal corporation to enforce certain provisions of law and adopt certain regulations or require certain State licenses under certain circumstances; altering certain licensing and examination requirements; repealing a certain provision of law stating that certain provisions of law do not require certain individuals to hold a State license; altering certain reciprocity requirements for certain individuals authorized to provide electrical services in other states; establishing certain continuing education requirements; authorizing the State Board to waive certain examination requirements and certain experience requirements for certain licensees in certain circumstances; altering the circumstances under which the State Board may deny a license to an applicant, reprimand a licensee, or suspend or revoke a license; authorizing the State Board to set certain fees; providing for the construction of a certain provision of law; requiring a master electrician to display certain information in a certain manner; requiring a licensee to give the State Board certain notice of a change in certain information; prohibiting a person from taking certain actions without a license; establishing certain penalties for certain violations; requiring the State Board to provide a certain notice to each local board in the State; altering certain definitions; defining certain terms; making stylistic and conforming changes; and generally relating to the State Board of Electricians and the licensing and regulation of electricians.

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