



Maryland Chapter
National Electrical Contractors Association



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February 16, 2022

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

On behalf of the Maryland Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), I write today to express our strong support for Senate Bill 604, the amending of three modifications to the Maryland Electrician Act.

Maryland NECA represents 75 construction contractors, some 2,000 workers and over 400 working apprentices. Our association takes pride knowing that we represent quality electrical contractors who employ the best trained electricians in the state.

NECA supports Senate Bill 604 because the need for skilled electricians is at an all-time high; considering this, the ease by which an experienced electrician, currently working in the industry, can obtain their license and certifications required to continue working is essential.

Senate Bill 604 helps streamline this process by crediting an applicant's successful completion of an electrical apprenticeship program — approved by either the *Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council (MATP)* or *The Federal Office of Apprenticeship* — as the required experience necessary for the applicant's licensure.

Additionally, it waives the examination requirements for an applicant if they apply for their license before the December 2022 deadline; and, can provide written proof they have four (4) years of electrical work experience under the direction of a master electrician.

Lastly, the proposed modifications will make it permissible for an individual assigned to a local registration by a master electrician exempt from maintaining general liability insurance and property damage insurance if: the master electrician or local registration-holder carries these insurances; the individual only provides electrical services within the scope of that registration; and the individual provides the State Board with evidence of their employer's insurance.

In an industry that faces the ever-looming concern of a shortage of qualified labor, the removing of barriers for highly skilled and properly trained electricians to continue working unimpeded is critical to improving the electric trade workforce within the State of Maryland. Senate Bill 604 amends the Maryland Electricians Act to provide an easier avenue by which qualified and experienced electricians, currently in the occupation, can procure their license and maintain working in the industry.

For these reasons, Maryland NECA supports Senate Bill 604 and asks for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

William Yull
Executive Director
Maryland NECA