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

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support Senate Bill 604 – Maryland Electricians Act - Revisions

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake supports Senate Bill (SB) 604 and requests a favorable report. SB604 is a follow up to the 2021 legislation which created a statewide journeyman electrician license. SB604 spells out how an electrician with requisite work experience or the completion of an approved electrician apprenticeship program can become a journeyman electrician by approval of the Maryland State Board of Electricians.

Applicants for a journeyman electrician license do not have to take an exam if by December 31, 2022 they provide:

- written proof of four (4) years of work experience providing electrical services under the control or direction of a master electrician; or
- written proof that they have successfully completed an electrician apprenticeship program approved by the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council (MATC) or the Federal Office of Apprenticeship. The program must consist of at least 576 classroom hours and 8,000 hours of work experience.

SB604 is designed to allow experienced electrical workers to become journeymen electricians in Maryland. This will create efficiency for electrical contractors and their workforce without compromising safety. 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 journeyman electrician license. SB604 builds upon the passage of last year's legislation and creates a clear path to license much needed journeyman electricians.

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.

About Us

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.

