



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

JOSEPH F. DABBS: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
CHRISTOPHER M. CASH: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • PAULO C. HENRIQUES: Treasurer



TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 326 WASHINGTON CO. -ELECTRICIANS-REGISTRATION & LICENSING February 14, 2022

TO: Brian Feldman, Chair, & members of the Senate Education ,Energy & Enviro Committee
FROM: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Chairman Feldman and distinguished members of the Committee, I respectfully ask that you **oppose SB 326** in its entirety. I am not sure the goal of the sponsors of this bill, but it raises more questions than it intends to solve. With all due respect, this piece of legislation is “Out of left field.”

As you are probably aware, the 2021 Maryland Electricians Act (MEA) addresses many issues that apprentices, journeyman, masters and contractors have been encountering for years. I, along with many others, worked on this Bill (The Maryland Electricians) for years during legislative sessions and summer work groups. The bi-partisan leadership of Senator Cory McCray and Delegate Kevin Hornberger, led the MEA across the finish line. And now, SB 326 wants to circumvent the Maryland Electricians Act. The MEA takes care of licensing and allows jurisdictions like Washington County to register apprentices, journeymen and masters. The scary part is that SB 326 wants to add another category, “The Restricted Electrician”. Which is not defined in SB 326 and opposes the law that the General assembly passed...The Maryland Electricians Act. Here is how SB 326 attempts to define a “registered electrician”:

“Restricted Electrician” means any individual who has been found competent by the Board of Electrical Examiners and Supervisors to engage in limited fields of electrical work.

OR

A “Restricted Electrician” permits any licensed individual to engage in the business of and to hold himself or herself out to the public as engaged in the business of installation and repair of the particular category of electrical equipment and apparatus described in the rules and regulations of the Board and on the license.

Both these definitions are too vague for a piece of legislation before the General Assembly and much too vague and arbitrary to allow someone to work with voltage safely. Please allow the Maryland Electricians Act to constitute safety for electricians and businesses in our great state. Please **oppose** this hastily written bill **SB 326**. Thank you





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