



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 444 STATE BOARD OF ELECTRICIANS-LIMITED ENERGY CONTRACTORS AND LIMITED ENERGY INTEGRATORS-LICENSING February, 23 2023

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

Mr. Chair, Madam Vice Chair and members of the Committee, I respectfully ask for an **unfavorable** report on **SB 444**. This legislation is a “wolf in sheep’s clothing.” It appears to be a licensing bill, but in actuality, it is trying to circumvent the Maryland Electricians Act, the states registered Apprenticeship programs and most importantly, the safety of the Maryland workers. Electricity kills, the voltage is irrelevant.

In today’s world of control wiring and limited voltage signaling, a tiny amount of voltage can start a piece of equipment that runs on 480 volts. The question is, does our state want a person with no training (because there is no training requirement to be a limited energy contractor or a limited energy integrator) having an ability to control a 480 volt generator, motor or life safety system. Most of us have been shocked at home from a 120-volt receptacle, 120 volts can kill. In this very hearing room, the lights above your head are 277 volts. Unfortunately, 277 volts can also kill and has a tendency to grab you and cause severe burns. 480 volts, which you will also find in this building, will kill a worker by the electrical force tossing him or her thru a wall. I am not trying to scare the committee; I just want you to be aware that having unqualified workers doing electric work can be disastrous.

These “low voltage” integrators can do their work of pulling and terminating phone and communication cables without this bill. *The only reason for them to support this piece of legislation would be to do undercut safety protocols, install electric work beyond their paygrade, and circumvent the bill this legislative body supported and passed into law, the Maryland Electricians Act.

I ask that you give an **unfavorable** report to **SB 444**. Thank you

