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March 7, 2023

To: Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Oppose Senate Bill 444 – State Board of Electricians - Limited Energy Contractors and Limited Energy Integrators - Licensing

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake opposes Senate Bill (SB) 444 and requests an unfavorable report.

IEC Chesapeake opposes SB444. Due to the level of complexity in creating a statewide license for limited energy contractors and limited energy integrators, the process should begin with a legislative mandated study with representatives including electricians, local government officials, Maryland Department of Labor officials and entities representing electrical contractors. It took nearly a decade to enact a statewide journeyman electrician license. In addition, there was legislation in both 2022 and 2023 to address unresolved issues from the 2021 legislation that created the statewide journeyman electrician license. There are many unanswered questions about “low voltage” licensing in terms of whom it applies to as well as the technical aspects of what is low voltage. The establishment of a study group is the best way to address the issues surrounding the creation of low voltage licenses in Maryland.

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, West Virginia, 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.

