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January 25, 2024

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

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support Senate Bill 298 **(with Amendment)** – State Board of Electricians – Licensing - Penalties

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake supports Senate Bill (SB) 298 and requests a favorable report with an amendment.

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents nearly 200 electrical contractors who employ approximately 15,000 workers in the mid-Atlantic region. In addition, IEC Chesapeake has nearly 1,000 electrical apprentices, and is one of the largest apprenticeship programs in Maryland.

IEC Chesapeake supports Senate Bill 298 **with an amendment**. The proposed amendment seeks to clarify that local electrical boards can seek the assistance of the State Board of Electricians in investigating and levying penalties, if necessary, on electricians who are allegedly violating State regulations.

The proposed amendment comes from IEC Chesapeake's collaboration with the Electric League of Maryland which is a respected voice for the electrical industry in Maryland. One of the key constituencies of the Electric League of Maryland is local electrical boards. Allowing local electrical boards to investigate and levy penalties against alleged offenders of Maryland electrical regulations would result in decisions in a timely manner and would alleviate an excessive caseload for the State Board of Electricians.

**Proposed Amendment to SB 298**

On Page 1, on Line 16 after 6-316 and before (a) (1) insert:

*"STATEWIDE ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES ANY OF THE REGULATIONS OF SECTION 6-316 SHALL BE PENALIZED. WHEN AND IF A LOCAL AUTHORIZED ELECTRICAL ADMINISTRATION CAN NOT RESOLVE THE INFRACTION(S) THEN THAT PERSON SHALL BE:"*

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](mailto:gshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com) or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at [kevin@kokeeffelaw.com](mailto:kevin@kokeeffelaw.com).





PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SB 298

BY: Independent Electrical Contractors Chesapeake  
(To be offered in the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 298  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT #1

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