



**To: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
**From: John Dove, Commissioner, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing,**  
**Maryland Department of Labor**  
**Re: SB298 - State Board of Electricians-Licensing-Penalties**

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**Introduction:**

Good afternoon, for the record, my name is John Dove, Commissioner of the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, at the Maryland Department of Labor. I would like to thank Chair Feldman, and all the Energy, Education and Environment Committee Members for allowing me to introduce you to SB 298, entitled State Board of Electricians - Licensing - Penalties and I would like to explain why the passing of this Bill would benefit all citizens of Maryland.

**Testimony:**

In 2021, The Legislature passed SB 762, which established electrical licensing at the State level. Prior to this, the licensing was administered at the local level along with the enforcement. The Annotated Code of Maryland,, lists the grounds under which the Board may take action against an applicant or licensee. However, there is currently no provision to impose a civil penalty for such violations.

Each of the other occupational licensing Boards have a civil penalty to allow for progressive disciplinary action, and when looking at the statute, it appears to mirror every other occupational license in establishing grounds for action by the Board. However, as the statute is currently written, the Board only has one option for any violation, and that is the revocation of an individual's electrical license. The revocation of an electrical license should only be imposed for the most severe violations, or when progressive discipline fails to correct a licensee's action.

By passing this legislation it will allow the State Board of Electricians to look at the totality of the violation and issue progressive and proportional discipline.

Thank you for your time, and we ask this committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Dove", is written over a horizontal line.

John C. Dove

CC: John Bull, Executive Director