

HARFORD COUNTY BILL NO. 24-006

Brief Title (Electrical Code)

is herewith submitted to the County Council of Harford County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT

Asm
[Signature]
Council Administrator
Date March 19, 2024

ENROLLED

[Signature]
Council President
Date 3/19/24

BY THE COUNCIL

Read the third time.

Passed: LSD 24-010

Failed of Passage: _____

By Order

Asm
[Signature]
Council Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 20th
Day of March 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Asm
[Signature]
Council Administrator

BY THE EXECUTIVE

[Signature]
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: Date 3/21/24



BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill No. 24-006 having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, becomes law on March 21, 2024.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 20, 2024

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 24-006

Introduced by Council President Vincenti at the request of the County Executive

Legislative Day No. 24-006 Date February 13, 2024

AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Chapter 105, Electricity, of the Harford County Code as amended; to provide that Harford County shall adopt as its standard for electrical installations and electricians the 2023 National Electrical Code with certain amendments thereto; and generally relating to electricians and electrical installations.

By the Council, February 13, 2024

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled

on: March 12, 2024

at: 6:30 PM

By Order: *Mylin A. Dixon*, Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on March 12, 2024, and concluded on March 12, 2024.

Mylin A. Dixon, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Chapter 105, Electricity, be, and it is hereby, repealed and reenacted, with amendments, and all to read as follows:

Chapter 105. Electricity

Article I. General Provisions

§ 105-1. Scope; applicability.

A. Except as otherwise provided, the provisions of this chapter shall apply to all electrical equipment and the installation or relocation thereof in the County for light, heat or power within or on public or private buildings, structures or premises, including yards, carnivals and parking lots and industrial substations, and all electrical equipment and those other items, equipment and installations covered by the duly adopted edition of the National Electrical Code.

B. (Reserved)

C. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to installations in ships, railway cars or automobiles.

D. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to installations or equipment of the United States Government.

§ 105-2. Adoption of standards.

A. Definitions.

(1) As used in this code, the term "Building Official" means the Director of the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits or his/her designee.

(2) As used in this code, the term "Department of Building Safety" means the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits.

B. The National Electrical Code, ([2020] 2023 Edition), including all annexes, as adopted by the National Fire Protection Association, is hereby adopted as the Harford County Electrical Code, and it is incorporated by reference hereto and is made a part of this chapter with the same force and effect as though set out in full herein, save and except such changes,

1 amendments, revisions, deletions, substitutions and additions as are specified. All electrical
2 installations in Harford County shall meet the standards and requirements set forth by the
3 National Electrical Code and this chapter and all rules and regulations. AT LEAST 1 COPY
4 OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE AND SUPPLEMENTS THERETO ARE ON
5 FILE AND OPEN FOR PUBLIC USE, EXAMINATION AND INSPECTION IN THE
6 OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION.

7 C. Exceptions and modifications to the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023).

8 (1) In Subsection 110.14 of the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023), add the
9 following sentence to the end of the first paragraph: “[An inhibitor shall be used for
10 the termination of all aluminum conductors.] ALUMINUM CONDUCTORS
11 SHALL BE CONNECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE U.S. CONSUMER
12 PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION PUBLICATION 516 REPAIRING
13 ALUMINUM WIRING.”

14 (2) In Subsection 210.8 of the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023), add the
15 following exceptions:

16 “Exception 1: Receptacles for submersible pumps within dwelling units are
17 permitted to be installed without GFCI protection when a single receptacle is
18 utilized.

19 Exception 2: Receptacles for refrigeration are permitted to be installed without
20 GFCI protection when a single receptacle is utilized.”

21 (3) In subsection 210.8(f) of The National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023), add the
22 following exception: “exception: the Department may amend this section by
23 adopting rules and regulations as authorized by section 807 of the Harford County
24 Charter.”

25 (4) In Subsection 210.11(C)(1) of the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023), delete the
26 word “two” in the third line and insert the word “three” in lieu thereof.

27 (5) In Subsection 210.12 of the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023), add the

following exception: “Exception: Receptacles for refrigeration and submersible pumps are permitted to be installed without AFCI protection when a single receptacle is utilized for each appliance.”

(6) In Subsection 210.52(B)(1) of the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023), delete the word “two” in the third line and insert the word “three” in lieu thereof.

(7) In Subsection 210.52(B)(2) of the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023), delete the word “two” in the first line and insert the word “three” in lieu thereof.

(8) In Subsection 210.52(B)(3) of the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023), add the following sentence after “(1).” in the sixth line: “Adjacent receptacles serving the countertop shall be on alternating circuits.”

(9) IN SUBSECTION 210.52(C) OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (2023), REPLACE “3” IN THE FIFTH LINE BETWEEN “(C)” AND THE WORD “AND” WITH “5”.

[(9)10] Subsection 230.85 of the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023) is deleted in its entirety]. IN SUBSECTION 210.52(C) OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE 2023, ITEMS (2) AND (3) ARE DELETED IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND REPLACED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

(2) ISLAND COUNTERTOP SPACES. AT LEAST ONE RECEPTACLE SHALL BE INSTALLED AT EACH ISLAND COUNTERTOP SPACE WITH A LONG DIMENSION OF 600 MM (24 IN.) OR GREATER AND A SHORT DIMENSION OF 300 MM (12 IN.) OR GREATER.

(3) PENINSULAR COUNTERTOP SPACES. AT LEAST ONE RECEPTACLE OUTLET SHALL BE INSTALLED AT EACH PENINSULAR COUNTERTOP LONG DIMENSION SPACE WITH A LONG DIMENSION OF 600 MM (24 IN.) OR GREATER AND A SHORT DIMENSION OF 300 MM (12 IN.) OR GREATER. A PENINSULAR COUNTERTOP IS MEASURED FROM THE CONNECTED PERPENDICULAR WALL.

(4) SEPARATE SPACES. COUNTERTOP SPACES SEPARATED BY RANGETOPS, REFRIGERATORS, OR SINKS SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS SEPARATE COUNTERTOP SPACES IN APPLYING THE REQUIREMENTS OF 210.52(C)(1). IF A RANGE, COUNTER-MOUNTED COOKING UNIT, OR SINK IS INSTALLED IN AN ISLAND OR PENINSULAR COUNTERTOP AND THE DEPTH OF THE COUNTERTOP BEHIND THE RANGE, COUNTER-MOUNTED COOKING UNIT, OR SINK IS LESS THAN 300 MM (12 IN.), THE RANGE, COUNTER-MOUNTED COOKING UNIT, OR SINK SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO DIVIDE THE COUNTERTOP SPACE INTO TWO SEPARATE COUNTERTOP SPACES. EACH SEPARATE COUNTERTOP SPACE SHALL COMPLY WITH THE APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS IN 210.52(C).

(5) RECEPTACLE OUTLET LOCATION. RECEPTACLE OUTLETS SHALL BE LOCATED ON OR ABOVE, BUT NOT MORE THAN 500 MM (20 IN.) ABOVE, THE COUNTERTOP OR WORK SURFACE. RECEPTACLE OUTLET ASSEMBLIES LISTED FOR USE IN COUNTERTOPS OR WORK SURFACES SHALL BE PERMITTED TO BE INSTALLED IN COUNTERTOPS OR WORK SURFACES. RECEPTACLE OUTLETS RENDERED NOT READILY ACCESSIBLE BY APPLIANCES FASTENED IN PLACE, APPLIANCE GARAGES, SINKS, OR RANGETOPS AS COVERED IN 210.52(C)(1).

EXCEPTIONS

1. RECEPTACLES OBSTRUCTED BY PERMANENT PROVIDED FOR APPLIANCE INSTALLATIONS THAT OCCUPY DEDICATED SPACE SHALL NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE REQUIRED OUTLETS AS REQUIRED.
2. TO COMPLY WITH CONDITIONS (1) AND (2) OF THIS EXCEPTION, RECEPTACLE OUTLETS SHALL BE PERMITTED TO BE MOUNTED NOT

MORE THAN 300 MM (12 IN.) BELOW THE COUNTERTOP OR WORK SURFACE. RECEPTACLES MOUNTED BELOW A COUNTERTOP OR WORK SURFACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS EXCEPTION SHALL NOT BE LOCATED WHERE THE COUNTERTOP OR WORK SURFACE EXTENDS MORE THAN 150 MM (6 IN.) BEYOND ITS SUPPORT BASE.

(1) CONSTRUCTION FOR THE PHYSICALLY IMPAIRED

(2) ON ISLAND AND PENINSULAR COUNTERTOPS OR WORK SURFACE WHERE THE SURFACE IS FLAT ACROSS ITS ENTIRE SURFACE (NO BACKSPASHES, DIVIDERS, ETC.) AND THERE ARE NO MEANS TO MOUNT A RECEPTACLE WITHIN 500 MM (20 IN.) ABOVE THE COUNTERTOP OR WORK SURFACE, SUCH AS AN OVERHEAD CABINET

(11) IN SUBSECTION 215.18 OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (2023), ADD THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTION: WHEN SURGE PROTECTION IS INSTALLED IN SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH 230.67, ADDITIONAL SURGE PROTECTION IS NOT REQUIRED IN THE SUB FEED PANELS WHEN THE PANELS ARE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY NOT TO EXCEED 20 FEET TO THE SERVICE EQUIPMENT.

(1[0]2) In Subsection 250.52(A)(5) of the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023), delete both Paragraphs (a) and (b) beginning in the fourth line and add the following after the word “materials.” in the third line: “Electrodes of rods of iron or steel are not permitted. Stainless steel rods, nonferrous rods, or their equivalent shall be listed and shall not be less than 16 mm (5/8 inch) in diameter.”

(1[1]3) In Subsection 250.104(B)(1) of the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023), add the following language to the end of the sentence: “for other than gas piping system(s).”

(1[2]4) In Subsection 250.104(B), add the following language:

“(6) For gas piping system(s), the bonding conductors shall not be smaller than 6 AWG copper wire or equivalent to be connected at a readily accessible location either outside of a building or structure or inside nearest to the point of entrance of the piping system and ahead of any CSST piping that may be installed in the structure.”

(1[3]5) In Subsection 310.3 of the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023), delete “12” in the third line and insert “4” in lieu thereof [and add “12 AWG” between the words “or” and “copper-clad” in the same line].

(1[4]6) In Subsection 410.36(B) of the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023), delete the entire subsection after the word “ceilings.” in the title and insert the following in lieu thereof: “All ‘lay-in’ luminaires AND DEVICES require independent suspension to ensure the luminaire will not drop when the framing members no longer provide support. At a minimum, 12 SWG wire which is firmly secured to the building structure and the luminaires AND DEVICES must be utilized. Two INDEPENDENT restraining wires at opposite and opposing corners are required for [fluorescent] luminaires and four restraining wires, one at each corner, are required when installed in fire rated ceilings. Other types of luminaires AND DEVICES SMALLER THAN 2 BY 2 FEET installed in suspended ceilings must have at least one 12 SWG or larger wire which is firmly secured to the building structure and the luminaire as a secondary support to preclude the danger of falling when the framing members fail or are removed.”

(1[5]7) In Subsection 422.5(A) of the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023), delete “(6) Sump pumps”.

[(16) In Subsection 680.26(B)(2)(a) of the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023), add the following after the word “shall” in the second line: “be a minimum of 3/8 in. thick and”.]

(1[7]8) In Subsection 680.26(B)(2)(b) of the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023), add

the following [before] AFTER the word [“where”] “METHODS” IN THE
SECOND LINE [in the first line:] “for above ground pools”.

(19) IN SUBSECTION 700.12(H)(2) INSERT THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE AT
THE END OF (3)(A): THE BRANCH CIRCUIT DISCONNECTING MEANS
SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH A LOCK-ON FEATURE.

[[18]20)Delete Informative Annex H of the National Electrical Code ([2020] 2023) in its
entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

“INFORMATIVE ANNEX H ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT”

SECTION 102

APPLICABILITY

102.1 General.

Where there is a conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the
specific requirement shall govern. Where, in any specific case, different sections of this
code specify different materials, methods of construction or other requirements, the most
restrictive shall govern.

102.2 Existing installations.

Electric systems lawfully in existence at the time of the adoption of this code shall be
permitted to have their use and maintenance continued if the use, maintenance or repair is
in accordance with the original design and hazard to life, health or property is not created
by such electric system.

102.3 Maintenance.

Electric systems, materials and appurtenances, both existing and new, and parts thereof,
shall be maintained in proper operating condition in accordance with the original design in
a safe condition. Devices or safeguards required by this code shall be maintained in
compliance with the edition of the code under which they were installed.

The owner or the owner’s authorized agent shall be responsible for maintenance of electric
systems. To determine compliance with this provision, the building official shall have the

authority to require any electric system to be reinspected.

102.4 Additions, alterations or repairs.

Additions, alterations, renovations or repairs to any electric system shall conform to that required for a new electric system without requiring the existing electric system to comply with all the requirements of this code. Additions, alterations or repairs shall not cause an existing system to become unsafe or overloaded.

Minor additions, alterations, renovations and repairs to existing electric systems shall meet the provisions for new construction, unless such work is done in the same manner and arrangement as was in the existing system, is not hazardous and is approved.

102.5 Change in occupancy.

It shall be unlawful to make any change in the occupancy of any structure that will subject the structure to any special provision of this code applicable to the new occupancy without approval of the building official. The building official shall certify that such structure meets the intent of the provisions of law governing building construction for the proposed new occupancy and that such change of occupancy does not result in any hazard to the public health, safety or welfare.

102.6 Historic buildings.

The provisions of this code relating to the construction, alteration, repair, enlargement, restoration, relocation or moving of buildings or structures shall not be mandatory for existing buildings or structures identified and classified by the state or local jurisdiction as historic buildings where such buildings or structures are judged by the building official to be safe and in the public interest of health, safety and welfare regarding any proposed construction, alteration, repair, enlargement, restoration, relocation or moving of buildings.

102.7 Moved buildings.

Electric systems that are a part of buildings or structures moved into or within the jurisdiction shall comply with the provisions of this code for new installations.

102.8 Referenced codes and standards.

The codes and standards referenced in this code shall be those that are listed in Informative Annex A, such codes and standards shall be considered as part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed extent of each such reference and as further regulated in Sections 102.8.1 and 102.8.2.

102.8.1 Conflicts.

Where conflicts occur between provisions of this code and the referenced standards, the provisions of this code shall apply.

102.8.2 Provisions in referenced codes and standards.

Where the extent of the reference to a referenced code or standard includes subject matter that is within the scope of this code, the provisions of this code, as applicable, shall take precedence over the provisions in the referenced code or standard.

102.9 Requirements not covered by code.

Any requirements necessary for the strength, stability or proper operation of an existing or proposed electric system, or for the public safety, health and general welfare, not specifically covered by this code shall be determined by the building official.

102.10 Other laws.

The provisions of this code shall not be deemed to nullify any provisions of local, state or federal law.

102.11 Application of references.

Reference to chapter section numbers, or to provisions not specifically identified by number, shall be construed to refer to such chapter, section or provision of this code.

SECTION 103

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING SAFETY

103.1 Appointment.

The building official and the deputy building official shall be appointed by the chief appointing authority of the jurisdiction.

103.2 Deputies.

In accordance with the prescribed procedures of this jurisdiction and with the concurrence of the appointing authority, the Department of Building Safety shall have the authority to appoint related technical officers, inspectors and other employees. Such employees shall have powers as delegated by the building official.

103.3 Liability.

The building official, member of the Board of Appeals, a member of the Harford County Electric Board or employee charged with the enforcement of this code, while acting for the jurisdiction in good faith and without malice in the discharge of the duties required by this code or other pertinent law or ordinance, shall not thereby be rendered civilly or criminally liable personally, and is hereby relieved from all personal liability for any damage accruing to persons or property as a result of any act or by reason of an act or omission in the discharge of official duties.

103.3.1 Legal defense.

Any suit or criminal complaint instituted against any officer or employee because of an act performed by that officer or employee in the lawful discharge of duties and under the provisions of this code shall be defended by the legal representative of the jurisdiction until the final termination of the proceedings. The building official or any subordinate shall not be liable for costs in any action, suit or proceeding that is instituted in pursuance of the provisions of this code.

SECTION 104

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE BUILDING OFFICIAL

104.1 General.

The building official is hereby authorized and directed to enforce the provisions of this code. The building official shall have the authority to render interpretations of this code and to adopt policies and procedures in order to clarify the application of its provisions. Such interpretations, policies and procedures shall be in compliance with the intent and purpose of this code. Such policies and procedures shall not have the effect of waiving

requirements specifically provided for in this code.

104.2 Applications and permits.

The building official shall receive applications, review construction documents and issue permits for the installation and alteration of electric systems, inspect the premises for which such permits have been issued, and enforce compliance with the provisions of this code.

104.3 Inspections.

The building official shall make all the required inspections, or shall accept reports of inspection by approved agencies or individuals. Reports of such inspections shall be in writing and be certified by a responsible officer of such approved agency or by the responsible individual. The building official is authorized to engage such expert opinion as deemed necessary to report on unusual technical issues that arise, subject to the approval of the appointing authority.

104.4 Right of entry.

Where it is necessary to make an inspection to enforce the provisions of this code, or where the building official has reasonable cause to believe that there exists in any building or upon any premises any conditions or violations of this code that make the building or premises unsafe, dangerous or hazardous, the building official shall have the authority to enter the building or premises at all reasonable times to inspect or to perform the duties imposed upon the building official by this code. If such building or premises is occupied, the building official shall present credentials to the occupant and request entry. If such building or premises is unoccupied, the building official shall first make a reasonable effort to locate the owner, the owner's authorized agent or other person having charge or control of the building or premises and request entry. If entry is refused, the building official shall have recourse to every remedy provided by law to secure entry.

Where the building official shall have first obtained a proper inspection warrant or other remedy provided by law to secure entry, no owner, owner's authorized agent, occupant or person having charge, care or control of any building or premises shall fail or neglect, after

proper request is made as herein provided, to promptly permit entry therein by the building official for the purpose of inspection and examination pursuant to this code.

104.5 Identification.

The building official shall carry proper identification when inspecting structures or premises in the performance of duties under this code.

104.6 Notices and orders.

The building official shall issue all necessary notices or orders to ensure compliance with this code.

104.7 Department records.

The building official shall keep official records of applications received, permits and certificates issued, fees collected, reports of inspections, and notices and orders issued. Such records shall be retained in the official records for the period required for the retention of public records.

SECTION 105

APPROVAL

105.1 Modifications.

Where there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of this code, the building official shall have the authority to grant modifications for individual cases, upon application of the owner or owner's authorized agent, provided the building official shall first find that special individual reason makes the strict letter of this code impractical and the modification conforms to the intent and purpose of this code and that such modification does not lessen health, life and fire safety requirements. The details of action granting modifications shall be recorded and entered in the files of the Department.

105.2 Alternative materials, methods and equipment.

The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code, provided that any such alternative has been approved. An alternative material or method of

construction shall be approved where the building official finds that the proposed alternative material, method or equipment complies with the intent of the provisions of this code and is not less than the equivalent of that prescribed in this code. Where the alternative material, design or method of construction is not approved, the building official shall respond in writing, stating the reasons why the alternative was not approved.

REPAIRS TO ALUMINUM WIRING SHALL BE PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLICATION 516 OF THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, "REPAIRING ALUMINUM WIRING", LATEST EDITION

105.2.1 Research reports.

Supporting data, where necessary to assist in the approval of materials or assemblies not specifically provided for in this code, shall consist of valid research reports from approved sources.

105.3 Required testing.

Where there is insufficient evidence of compliance with the provisions of this code, or evidence that a material or method does not conform to the requirements of this code, or in order to substantiate claims for alternate materials or methods, the building official shall have the authority to require tests as evidence of compliance to be made at no expense to the jurisdiction.

105.3.1 Test methods.

Test methods shall be as specified in this code or by other recognized test standards. In the absence of recognized and accepted test methods, the building official shall approve the testing procedures.

105.3.2 Testing agency.

Tests shall be performed by an approved agency.

105.3.3 Test reports.

Reports of tests shall be retained by the building official for the period required for retention of public records.

105.4 Approved materials and equipment.

Materials, equipment and devices approved by the building official shall be constructed and installed in accordance with such approval.

105.4.1 Material and equipment reuse.

Materials, equipment and devices shall not be reused unless such elements have been reconditioned, tested, placed in good and proper working condition and approved.

SECTION 106**PERMITS****106.1 When required.**

Any owner, owner's authorized agent or contractor who desires to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any electric system, the installation of which is regulated by this code, or to cause any such work to be performed, shall first make application to the building official and obtain the required permit for the work. All applications for permits shall be in writing or made electronically and on forms prescribed by the Department. All applications, except those by homeowners pursuant to § 105-12]13, shall be signed by a master, limited or restricted electrician. Each application shall describe the work to be done and the location and shall be accompanied by plans, specifications and schedules that are necessary to determine whether the installation will conform to the provisions of this chapter.

106.2 Exempt work.

The following work shall be exempt from the requirement for a permit:

1. No permit shall be required for A minor repair[s][or minor installations] as defined in § 105-3 of this chapter when the installation is done by a master electrician.
2. No permit shall be required for installations of communication or signaling circuits operating at 50 volts or less within any portion of a dwelling unit unless that work is in conjunction with additional work that would necessitate the issuance of a

1 building permit as required by Chapter 82 of the Harford County Code.

2 Exemption from the permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant
3 authorization for any work to be done in violation of the provisions of this code or any
4 other laws or ordinances of this jurisdiction.

5 **106.3 Application for permit.**

6 Each application for a permit, with the required fee, shall be filed with the building official
7 on a form furnished for that purpose and shall contain a general description of the proposed
8 work and its location. The application shall be signed by an individual who shall meet the
9 requirements of this chapter. The permit application shall indicate the proposed occupancy
10 of all parts of the building and of that portion of the site or lot, if any, not covered by the
11 building or structure and shall contain such other information required by the building
12 official.

13 **106.3.1 Construction documents.**

14 Construction documents, engineering calculations, diagrams and other such data shall be
15 submitted in two or more sets with each application for a permit. The building official
16 shall require construction documents, computations and specifications to be prepared and
17 designed by a registered design professional where required by state law. Construction
18 documents shall be drawn to scale and shall be of sufficient clarity to indicate the location,
19 nature and extent of the work proposed and show in detail that the work conforms to the
20 provisions of this code. Construction documents for buildings more than 2 stories in height
21 shall indicate where penetrations will be made for pipes, fittings and components and shall
22 indicate the materials and methods for maintaining required structural safety, fire-
23 resistance rating and fireblocking.

24 **Exception:** The building official shall have the authority to waive the submission of
25 construction documents, calculations or other data if the nature of the work applied for is
26 such that reviewing of construction documents is not necessary to determine compliance
27 with this code.

106.3.2 Preliminary inspection.

Before a permit is issued, the building official shall be authorized to inspect and evaluate the systems, equipment, buildings, devices, premises and spaces or areas to be used.

106.3.3 Time limitation of application.

An application for a permit for any proposed work shall be deemed to have been abandoned 180 days after the date of filing, unless such application has been pursued in good faith or a permit has been issued; except that the building official shall have the authority to grant one or more extensions of time for additional periods not exceeding 180 days each. The extension shall be requested in writing and justifiable cause demonstrated.

106.3.4 Emergency work.

When work of an emergency nature must be performed to rectify a condition that is potentially hazardous to life, health or property, the master electrician may undertake such work prior to the issuance of a permit, but he or she shall notify the authority having jurisdiction over the emergency and shall obtain a permit for doing such work within 48 hours of the commencement of the work.

106.4 By whom application is made.

Application for a permit shall be made by the person or agent to install all or part of any electric system. The applicant shall meet all qualifications established by statute, or by rules promulgated by this code, or by ordinance or by resolution. The full name and address of the applicant shall be stated in the application.

106.5 Permit issuance.

The application, construction documents and other data filed by an applicant for permit shall be reviewed by the building official. If the building official finds that the proposed work conforms to the requirements of this code and all laws and ordinances applicable thereto, and that the fees specified in Section 106.6 have been paid, a permit shall be issued to the applicant.

106.5.1 Approved construction documents.

When the building official issues the permit where construction documents are required, the construction documents shall be endorsed in writing and stamped "APPROVED." Such approved construction documents shall not be changed, modified or altered without authorization from the building official. Work shall be done in accordance with the approved construction documents.

The building official shall have the authority to issue a permit for the construction of a part of an electric system before the entire construction documents for the whole system have been submitted or approved, provided adequate information and detailed statements have been filed complying with all pertinent requirements of this code. The holders of such permit shall proceed at their own risk without assurance that the permit for the entire electric system will be granted.

106.5.2 Validity.

The issuance of a permit or approval of construction documents shall not be construed to be a permit for, or an approval of, any violation of any of the provisions of this code or any other ordinance of the jurisdiction. A permit presuming to give authority to violate or cancel the provisions of this code shall not be valid.

The issuance of a permit based upon construction documents and other data shall not prevent the building official from thereafter requiring the correction of errors in said construction documents and other data or from preventing building operations being carried on thereunder where in violation of this code or of other ordinances of this jurisdiction.

106.5.3 Expiration.

Every permit issued by the building official under the provisions of this code shall expire by limitation and become null and void if the work authorized by such permit is not commenced within 1 year from the date of such permit, or if the work authorized by such permit is suspended or abandoned at any time after the work is commenced for a period of 180 days.

106.5.4 Extensions.

Any permittee holding an unexpired permit shall have the right to apply for an extension of the time within which the permittee will commence work under that permit when work is unable to be commenced within the time required by this section for good and satisfactory reasons. The building official shall extend the time for action by the permittee for a period not exceeding 180 days if there is reasonable cause.

106.5.5 Suspension or revocation of permit.

The building official shall have the authority to suspend or revoke a permit issued under the provisions of this code wherever the permit is issued in error or on the basis of incorrect, inaccurate or incomplete information, or in violation of any ordinance or regulation or any of the provisions of this code.

106.5.5.1 Withholding permits.

The building official may withhold the issuance of an electrical permit if the applicant has failed to remedy or correct any violations of this code on any previous permits within 90 calendar days from the time for which the applicant has been cited by the Department of Building Safety.

106.5.6 Retention of construction documents.

One set of approved construction documents shall be retained by the building official for a period of not less than 180 days from date of completion of the permitted work, or as required by state or local laws. One set of approved construction documents shall be returned to the applicant, and said set shall be kept on the site of the building or work at all times during which the work authorized thereby is in progress.

106.5.7 Previous approvals.

This code shall not require changes in the construction documents, construction or designated occupancy of a structure for which a lawful permit has been heretofore issued or otherwise lawfully authorized.

106.5.8 Posting of permit.

1 The permit or a copy shall be kept on the site of the work until the completion of the project.

2 **106.5.9 Transferring permit.**

3 An electrical permit may be transferred from one master electrician to another master
4 electrician with the written permission of the owner of the property or the owner's agent.

5 There shall be a 7 working-day waiting period before a new permit is issued unless the
6 parties agree to waive the waiting period or the building official determines that
7 extenuating circumstances exist that warrant modification of the waiting period. The
8 waiting period begins when the Division of Electrical Services receives such request from
9 the owner or owner's agent. During this time, the original master electrician will be
10 notified by the administrative authority that the owner or owner's agent has submitted such
11 request to the Division of Electrical Services. After the waiting period, a new permit may
12 be issued. At this time, the new master electrician will be required to sign an agreement
13 assuming responsibility for the entire electrical work. The fee for the new permit shall be
14 the same as the original permit fee.

15 **106.6 Fees.**

16 A permit shall not be issued until the fees prescribed in Chapter 157 of the Harford County
17 Code have been paid, and an amendment to a permit shall not be released until the
18 additional fee, if any, due to an increase of the electric systems, has been paid.

19 **106.6.1 Work commencing before permit issuance.**

20 Any person who commences any work on an electrical system before obtaining the
21 necessary permits shall be subject to a fee established by the building official that shall be
22 in addition to the required permit fees unless waived by the building official pursuant to
23 established policy.

24 **106.6.2 Fee schedule.**

25 The fees for all electric work shall be in accordance with Chapter 157 of the Harford
26 County Code.

27 **106.6.3 Fee refunds.**

1 Refunds shall be administered in accordance with Chapter 157 of the Harford County
2 Code.

3 **106.6.4 Notice upon completion of work.**

4 Upon the completion of an installation regulated by this chapter, it shall be unlawful for
5 the holder of a permit issued hereunder to fail to notify the Department of the completion.
6 The Department shall inspect the installation within 48 hours of the notice, exclusive of
7 Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, or as soon thereafter as is practicable.

8 **SECTION 107**

9 **INSPECTIONS AND TESTING**

10 **107.1 General.**

11 The building official is authorized to conduct such inspections as are deemed necessary to
12 determine compliance with the provisions of this code. Construction or work for which a
13 permit is required shall be subject to inspection by the building official, and such
14 construction or work shall remain accessible and exposed for inspection purposes until
15 approved. Approval as a result of an inspection shall not be construed to be an approval
16 of a violation of the provisions of this code or of other ordinances of the jurisdiction.
17 Inspections presuming to give authority to violate or cancel the provisions of this code or
18 of other ordinances of the jurisdiction shall not be valid. It shall be the duty of the permit
19 applicant to cause the work to remain accessible and exposed for inspection purposes.
20 Neither the building official nor the jurisdiction shall be liable for expense entailed in the
21 removal or replacement of any material required to allow inspection.

22 **107.2 Required inspections and testing.**

23 The building official, upon notification from the permit holder or the permit holder's agent,
24 shall make the following inspections and such other inspections as necessary, and shall
25 either release that portion of the construction or shall notify the permit holder or an agent
26 of any violations that must be corrected. The holder of the permit shall be responsible for
27 the scheduling of such inspections.

1. Underground inspection shall be made after trenches or ditches are excavated and bedded, piping installed, and before any backfill is put in place.
2. Rough-in inspection shall be made after the roof, framing, fireblocking and bracing is in place and prior to the installation of wall or ceiling membranes.
3. Final inspection shall be made after the building is complete, all electric fixtures are in place and properly connected and the structure is ready for occupancy.

107.2.1 Other inspections.

In addition to the inspections specified above, the building official shall be authorized to make or require other inspections of any construction work to ascertain compliance with the provisions of this code and other laws that are enforced.

107.2.2 Inspection requests.

It shall be the duty of the holder of the permit or their duly authorized agent to notify the building official when work is ready for inspection. It shall be the duty of the permit holder to provide access to and means for inspections of such work that are required by this code.

107.2.3 Approval required.

Work shall not be done beyond the point indicated in each successive inspection without first obtaining the approval of the building official. The building official, upon notification, shall make the requested inspections and shall either indicate the portion of the construction that is satisfactory as completed, or notify the permit holder or his or her agent wherein the same fails to comply with this code. Any portions that do not comply shall be corrected and such portion shall not be covered or concealed until authorized by the building official.

107.2.3.1 Covered installations.

When any part of an installation regulated by this chapter is to be hidden from view by the permanent placement of part of a building, the person making the installation shall notify the Department, and such installation shall not be concealed until it has been inspected and approved by the Department, provided that on large installations where the concealment of electrical equipment proceeds continuously, the person installing the same shall give the

1 Department notice thereof so that inspections may be made periodically during the progress
2 of the work.

3 **107.2.3.2 Approval required.**

4 The Department shall have the authority to remove or require the removal of any structure
5 that prevents proper inspection of any electrical equipment.

6 **107.2.4 Approved agencies.**

7 The building official is authorized to accept reports of approved inspection agencies,
8 provided that such agencies satisfy the requirements as to qualifications and reliability.

9 **107.2.5 Evaluation and follow-up inspection services.**

10 Prior to the approval of a closed, prefabricated electric system and the issuance of a electric
11 permit, the building official shall require the submittal of an evaluation report on each
12 prefabricated electric system indicating the complete details of the electric system,
13 including a description of the system and its components, the basis upon which the electric
14 system is being evaluated, test results and similar information, and other data as necessary
15 for the building official to determine conformance to this code.

16 **107.2.5.1 Evaluation service.**

17 The building official shall designate the evaluation service of an approved agency as the
18 evaluation agency, and review such agency's evaluation report for adequacy and
19 conformance to this code.

20 **107.2.5.2 Follow-up inspection.**

21 Except where ready access is provided to all electric systems, service equipment and
22 accessories for complete inspection at the site without disassembly or dismantling, the
23 building official shall conduct the frequency of in-plant inspections necessary to ensure
24 conformance to the approved evaluation report or shall designate an independent, approved
25 inspection agency to conduct such inspections. The inspection agency shall furnish the
26 building official with the follow-up inspection manual and a report of inspections upon
27 request, and the electric system shall have an identifying label permanently affixed to the

system indicating that factory inspections have been performed.

107.2.5.3 Test and inspection records.

Required test and inspection records shall be available to the building official at all times during the fabrication of the electric system and the erection of the building, or such records as the building official designates shall be filed.

107.3 Special inspections.

Special inspections of alternative engineered design electric systems shall be conducted in accordance with Sections 107.3.1 and 107.3.2.

107.3.1 Periodic inspection.

The registered design professional or designated inspector shall periodically inspect and observe the alternative engineered design to determine that the installation is in accordance with the approved construction documents. Discrepancies shall be brought to the immediate attention of the electric contractor for correction. Records shall be kept of all inspections.

107.3.2 Written report.

The registered design professional shall submit a final report in writing to the building official upon completion of the installation, certifying that the alternative engineered design conforms to the approved construction documents. A notice of approval for the electric system shall not be issued until a written certification has been submitted.

107.4 Testing.

Electric work and systems shall be tested as required in Section 312 and in accordance with Sections 107.4.1 through 107.4.3. Tests shall be made by the permit holder and observed by the building official.

107.4.1 New, altered, extended or repaired systems.

New electric systems and parts of existing systems that have been altered, extended or repaired shall be inspected and/or tested in accordance with this chapter.

107.4.2 Equipment, material and labor for tests.

Equipment, material and labor required for testing an electric system or part thereof shall be furnished by the permit holder.

107.4.3 Reinspection and testing.

Where any work or installation does not pass any initial test or inspection, the necessary corrections shall be made to comply with this code. The work or installation shall then be resubmitted to the building official for inspection and testing.

107.5 Approval.

After the prescribed tests and inspections indicate that the work complies in all respects with this code, a notice of approval shall be issued by the building official.

107.5.1 Revocation.

The building official is authorized to, in writing, suspend or revoke a notice of approval issued under the provisions of this code wherever the notice is issued in error, or on the basis of incorrect information supplied, or where it is determined that the building or structure, premise or portion thereof is in violation of any ordinance or regulation or any of the provisions of this code.

107.6 Temporary connection.

The building official shall have the authority to authorize the temporary connection of the building or system to the utility source for the purpose of testing electric systems or for use under a temporary certificate of occupancy.

107.7 Connection of service utilities.

A person shall not make connections from a utility, source of energy, fuel, power, water system or sewer system to any building or system that is regulated by this code for which a permit is required until authorized by the building official.

107.7.1 Cut-in certificate.

No electrical light or power company shall supply electricity or power to any electrical equipment for which a permit for the installation is required under this chapter, and no person shall connect any electrical equipment to a supply of electricity or power, except in

accordance with a cut-in certificate issued by the Department.

If, after the inspection, the Department finds the installation to be in conformity with the provisions of this chapter, it shall issue a cut-in certificate authorizing the use of the installation and its connection to the supply of electricity and power and shall send the certificate to the electric light or power company supplying electricity. The certificates may be issued for an entire installation or a part of the installation.

Temporary cut-in certificates shall be issued for temporary installations authorized pursuant to [§ 106.3.4] § 107.6 of Annex H, and the certificates shall set forth their expiration date, shall expire upon that date unless extended and shall be cancelled by the building official at any time if the installation is not maintained in accordance with the Electrical Code.

107.8 Certification required

It shall be unlawful for any person to install electrical equipment not having the certification of an inspection authority approved by the Department.

SECTION 108

VIOLATIONS

108.1 Unlawful acts.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to erect, construct, alter, repair, remove, demolish or utilize any electric, or cause same to be done, in conflict with or in violation of any of the provisions of this code.

108.2 Notice of violation.

The building official shall serve a notice of violation or order to the person responsible for the erection, installation, alteration, extension, repair, removal or demolition of electric work in violation of the provisions of this code, or in violation of a detail statement or the approved construction documents thereunder, or in violation of a permit or certificate issued under the provisions of this code. Such order shall direct the discontinuance of the illegal action or condition and the abatement of the violation.

108.3 Prosecution of violation.

If the notice of violation is not complied with promptly, the building official shall request the legal counsel of the jurisdiction to institute the appropriate proceeding at law or in equity to restrain, correct or abate such violation, or to require the removal or termination of the unlawful occupancy of the structure in violation of the provisions of this code or of the order or direction made pursuant thereto.

108.4 Violation penalties.

Any person who shall violate a provision of this code or shall fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof or who shall erect, install, alter or repair electric work in violation of the approved construction documents or directive of the building official, or of a permit or certificate issued under the provisions of this code, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment not exceeding 90 days, or both such fine and imprisonment. Each day that a violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.

108.5 Stop work orders.

Upon notice from the building official, work on any electric system that is being performed contrary to the provisions of this code or in a dangerous or unsafe manner shall immediately cease. Such notice shall be in writing and shall be given to the owner of the property, or to the owner's authorized agent, or to the person performing the work. The notice shall state the conditions under which work is authorized to resume. Where an emergency exists, the building official shall not be required to give a written notice prior to stopping the work. Any person who shall continue any work in or about the structure after having been served with a stop work order, except such work as that person is directed to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition, shall be liable to a fine as stipulated in Chapter 157 of the Harford County Code.

108.6 Abatement of violation.

The imposition of the penalties herein prescribed shall not preclude the legal officer of the

jurisdiction from instituting appropriate action to prevent unlawful construction or to restrain, correct or abate a violation, or to prevent illegal occupancy of a building, structure or premises, or to stop an illegal act, conduct, business or utilization of the electric on or about any premises.

108.7 Unsafe electric.

In the case of any existing electrical installations, it shall be unlawful for these installations to be maintained in a hazardous and unsafe condition, and it is the responsibility of the owner of such installations to have the installation corrected in accordance with the Electrical Code. Any electrical system regulated by this code that is unsafe or that constitutes a fire or health hazard, or is otherwise dangerous to human life, is hereby declared unsafe. Any use of electric regulated by this code constituting a hazard to safety, health or public welfare by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence, fire hazard, disaster, damage or abandonment is hereby declared an unsafe use. Any such unsafe equipment is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and shall be abated by repair, rehabilitation, demolition or removal.

108.7.1 Authority to condemn equipment.

Whenever the building official determines that any electric, or portion thereof, regulated by this code has become hazardous to life, health or property, the building official shall order in writing that such electric either be removed or restored to a safe condition. A time limit for compliance with such order shall be specified in the written notice. A person shall not use or maintain defective electric after receiving such notice.

Where such electric is to be disconnected, written notice as prescribed in Section 108.2 shall be given. In cases of immediate danger to life or property, such disconnection shall be made immediately without such notice.

108.7.2 Authority to disconnect service utilities.

The building official shall have the authority to authorize disconnection of utility service to the building, structure or system regulated by the technical codes in case of an emergency

or where it may interfere with the fire protection service of any fire department in the County, where necessary, to eliminate an immediate danger to life or property. Where possible, the owner or the owner's authorized agent and occupant of the building, structure or service system shall be notified of the decision to disconnect utility service prior to taking such action. If not notified prior to disconnecting, the owner, the owner's authorized agent or occupant of the building, structure or service systems shall be notified in writing, as soon as practical thereafter.

108.7.3 Connection after order to disconnect.

A person shall not make connections from any energy, fuel, power supply or water distribution system or supply energy, fuel or water to any equipment regulated by this code that has been disconnected or ordered to be disconnected by the building official or the use of which has been ordered to be discontinued by the building official until the building official authorizes the reconnection and use of such equipment.

Where any electric is maintained in violation of this code, and in violation of any notice issued pursuant to the provisions of this section, the building official shall institute any appropriate action to prevent, restrain, correct or abate the violation.

108.8 Defective installations and equipment.

If, upon inspection, any installation for which a permit is required under this chapter is found to be in violation of the provisions of this chapter, the Department shall notify the holder of the permit of the nature of such violation in writing, and the violation shall be corrected within the time limit specified on the notice.

If the building official finds that any electrical equipment installed before or after the enactment of this chapter is dangerous to persons or property because of defects or improper use or installation, the building official shall notify the owner or lessee of the property in writing, setting forth the nature of such dangerous condition, and the person shall make such changes or repairs as are necessary to put the equipment in a safe condition within a period specified by the building official.

1 Upon failure of any person to comply with a notice issued pursuant to this section, the
2 building official shall revoke any permit which has been issued for the installation of the
3 equipment, shall not issue any cut-in certificate or shall revoke any certificate which has
4 been previously issued.

5 If the equipment or installation is connected to a supply of electricity or power, the building
6 official shall have the authority to disconnect, and the building official shall send notice to
7 the electric light or power company to discontinue its supply of electricity or power to the
8 equipment or installation, and the supply of electricity or power shall be terminated within
9 24 hours of the receipt of notice without liability on the part of such electric light or power
10 company.

11 **SECTION 109**

12 **MEANS OF APPEAL**

13 **109.1 Application for appeal.**

14 Any person shall have the right to appeal a decision of the building official to the Board of
15 Appeals as established in Section 113 of Chapter 82 of the Harford County Code. An
16 application for appeal shall be based on a claim that the true intent of this code or the rules
17 legally adopted thereunder have been incorrectly interpreted, the provisions of this code do
18 not fully apply, or an equally good or better form of construction is proposed. The
19 application shall be filed on a form obtained from the building official within 20 days after
20 the notice was served.

21 **SECTION 110**

22 **TEMPORARY EQUIPMENT, SYSTEMS AND USES**

23 **110.1 General.**

24 The building official is authorized to issue a permit for temporary equipment, systems and
25 uses. Such permits shall be limited as to time of service, but shall not be permitted for
26 more than 180 days. The building official is authorized to grant extensions for
27 demonstrated cause.

110.2 Conformance.

Temporary equipment, systems and uses shall conform to the structural strength, fire safety, means of egress, accessibility, light and ventilation requirements of this code as necessary to ensure the public health, safety and general welfare.

110.3 Temporary utilities.

The building official is authorized to give permission to temporarily supply utilities before an installation has been fully completed and the final certificate of completion has been issued. The part covered by the temporary certificate shall comply with the requirements specified for temporary lighting, heat or power in the code.

110.4 Termination of approval.

The building official is authorized to terminate such permit for temporary equipment, systems or uses and to order the temporary equipment, systems or uses to be discontinued.”

§ 105-3. Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them:

[APPRENTICE ELECTRICIAN -- A person of at least 16 years of age registered by the State Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation as currently enrolled in an electrical apprenticeship program and permitted to assist a master, limited, journeyman or limited journeyman electrician in providing electrical services in accordance with the Electrical Code, under the direction and supervision of a master or limited electrician.

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM -- A program registered by the State Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council, in accordance with Title 09, Subtitle 12, Chapter 43 of the Code of Maryland Regulations, to teach a skilled trade.]

BOARD -- The Board of Electrical Examiners as established by this chapter.

CONTINUING EDUCATION -- Any course or training in practical techniques, installation procedures and materials based on the latest edition of the National Electrical Code, administered by a State of Maryland recognized training program, or by a college, trade school, organization, or

individual approved by the Board.

DEPARTMENT -- The Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits.

DIRECTOR -- The appointed head of the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits or designee.

ELECTRICAL CODE -- The County Electrical Code, which includes the designated edition of the National Electrical Code as adopted and amended pursuant to this chapter.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR -- A person principally engaged in the business of installing, repairing, maintaining and erecting electrical wiring, equipment, apparatus and systems designed for using or conducting electrical current and coming within the purview of the Electrical Code.

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT -- Electrical conductors, raceways, wiring fittings, devices, appliances, fixtures, apparatus and any other equipment coming within the purview of the Electrical Code.

INSPECTOR -- An authorized agent of the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits.

INSTALL -- Includes all installations or electrical equipment or circuits or any parts thereof, including new work, alterations, renewals or extensions coming within the purview of this chapter.

LIMITED ELECTRICIAN -- A person registered by the County as qualified to install, repair and maintain a particular appliance, apparatus, device or fixture in accordance with the Electrical Code, limited to branch circuit wiring for automatic heating furnaces whose principal operation is derived from fuel oil, gas, steam or coal; refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment; illuminated signs; elevators; x-ray machines; and similar specialties.

LIMITED JOURNEYPERSON ELECTRICIAN -- A person registered by the County as qualified to install, repair and maintain a particular appliance, apparatus, device or fixture in accordance with the Electrical Code, under the direction and supervision of a limited electrician, restricted to branch circuit wiring for automatic heating furnaces whose principal operation is derived from fuel oil, gas, steam or coal; refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment; illuminated signs; elevators; x-ray machines; and similar specialties. The term "limited journeyman electrician" applies only to that level of technical knowledge required to perform those functions

provided for by law.

MASTER ELECTRICIAN -- A person registered by the County as qualified by the State of Maryland to install, repair, maintain and erect electrical wiring, equipment, apparatus and systems in accordance with the Electrical Code, including but not limited to electrical raceways, conductors, fixtures, signs, motors, switchgears and distribution systems, fixed electric heating systems or any other fixed electrical equipment or apparatus which conducts or consumes electricity.

[MINOR INSTALLATIONS -- Consists of 1 single-phase, 20-ampere branch circuit or less, not exceeding 5 receptacles or switch outlets installed in a residence.]

MINOR REPAIRS -- The replacement of 1 existing DEVICE (I.E. receptacle[s], snap switch[es], lighting fixture[s] or appliance[s]) to restore such equipment to its original state but not to alter or increase the current draw on a branch circuit.

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE -- The currently designated edition of the National Electrical Code as adopted by law, including appendixes and amendments adopted by law.

REGISTRANT -- Any person to whom a registration has been issued under the provisions of this chapter.

REPAIR or MAINTAIN -- To replace or preserve all existing electrical equipment or circuits.

RESTRICTED ELECTRICIAN -- A person registered by the County as qualified to maintain, repair, renew or replace the electrical wiring and equipment already installed by a master electrician in accordance with the Electrical Code, but in no case shall the person be allowed to extend or install any new electrical wiring or equipment. The license shall apply only to a designated place such as a plant, factory or apartment complex that employs maintenance forces.

Article II. Board of Electrical Examiners

§ 105-4. Membership; terms; vacancies.

A. The Board of Electrical Examiners of the County shall consist of 5 persons for the purpose of examining, regulating and monitoring all persons who are engaged or desire to engage in the business of master, limited, restricted, journeyman or limited journeyman electricians. The Board shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation

1 of the County Council. The Board shall consist of 3 master electricians, actually working as
2 such, who are residents of the County and whose principal place of business is located in the
3 County; an architect or an engineer who is a resident of the County and who is a professional
4 duly registered and licensed in accordance with the requirements of the state; and 1 citizen
5 who is a resident of the County.

6 B. The members of the Board shall be appointed for terms coterminous with that of the County
7 Executive, and any member may succeed himself in office. Each member shall serve until a
8 successor is appointed and qualified.

9 C. In case of vacancies, the County Executive shall make appointments for the remainder of the
10 unexpired term.

11 **§ 105-5. Chief Electrical Inspector.**

12 The Chief Electrical Inspector shall act as a liaison between the Department of Inspections, Licenses
13 and Permits and the Board.

14 **§ 105-6. Officers.**

15 The Board shall elect its own Chair, Vice Chair and any other officers. The Vice Chair shall, in the
16 absence of the Chair, assume all the duties and responsibilities of the Chair.

17 **§ 105-7. Continuation of present Board.**

18 This section does not affect the terms of those members of the Board serving as of October 1, 1984.
19 All new appointments shall be made in accordance with these provisions.

20 **§ 105-8. Salaries and compensation.**

21 Each member of the Board may be compensated for reasonable and necessary expenses at a rate the
22 County determines.

23 **§ 105-9. Powers and duties.**

24 A. The Board shall advise the Director on the issuance of registrations for master, limited,
25 restricted, journeyman and limited journeyman electricians and when applicable shall
26 ascertain by appropriate examination the qualifications and capabilities of all persons who
27 request registrations.

1 B. In the case of examination for limited registrations, the Board has the authority to consult or
2 obtain the services of a recognized expert in the field to conduct the examination.

3 **§ 105-10. Meetings; quorum.**

4 A. The Board shall meet at least once each month, unless determined by the Chair that there is
5 no business to be brought forth, and shall hold such other meetings as the proper and efficient
6 discharge of its business requires.

7 B. A majority of a proper quorum of the Board may take action on behalf of the Board.

8 **§ 105-11. (RESERVED)**

9 **Article III. Registrations**

10 **§ 105-12. Applicability of article.**

11 A. The registration provisions contained in this Article shall apply to electrical work within
12 the purview of the Electrical Code and shall not apply to a person who installs, repairs or
13 maintains electrical work [for that person's personal single-family residence,] provided:
14 (1) that before performing any such work the person shall apply to the Director for a
15 permit where required by this chapter.

16 (2) FOR EXISTING SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLINGS, THE PROPERTY MUST BE
17 THE PRINCIPAL PLACE OF RESIDENCY AS LISTED BY THE MARYLAND
18 DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION OR IDENTIFIED AS SUCH
19 THROUGH A PROPERLY RECORDED DEED.

20 (3) FOR NEW SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING, THE PROPERTY MUST BE
21 REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE APPLICANT AS LISTED BY THE
22 MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION OR
23 IDENTIFIED AS SUCH THROUGH A PROPERLY RECORDED DEED. THE
24 OWNER SHALL ALSO SUBMIT AN AFFIDAVIT THAT THE DWELLING WILL
25 BECOME THEIR PRINCIPAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE UPON THE ISSUANCE OF
26 A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY BY THE DEPARTMENT.

27 (3) THE REGISTRATION EXEMPTION SHALL NOT APPLY TO PROPERTIES

OWNED BY AN ENTITY OTHER THAN INDIVIDUAL OWNERSHIP.

(4) THE REGISTRATION EXEMPTION MAY ONLY BE GRANTED BY THE DEPARTMENT ONCE WITHIN A 5-YEAR TIME FRAME ORIGINATING FROM THE DATE OF APPLICATION FOR AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT WHERE THE EXEMPTION HAS BEEN GRANTED.

The Director shall require that the applicant is qualified to perform the work in a capable manner, so as not to endanger life and property belonging to public utilities suppliers. If the Director finds that the applicant is qualified to perform the work, a permit will be issued. No permit shall be required for minor repairs. [A person may also apply to perform electrical work for the construction or renovation of a single-family dwelling where that person provides an affidavit that the dwelling will become their principal place or residence once completed. An individual may only apply to perform work on a single-family dwelling that is not their principal place or residence more than once within a 5-year period.]

B. Nothing in the registration provisions contained in this Article shall be construed to exempt any electrical work in the County from complying with the requirements of the Electrical Code.

C. All electrical installations in the County shall be accomplished by, or under the supervision of, a master electrician or limited and restricted master except as provided in Subsection A above.

D. Any master or limited electrician's registration holder, as listed in this chapter, shall not represent more than one business, company, corporation, institution or entity supplying electrical services, of all types, at the same time.

E. No registration shall be required for installations of communication or signaling circuits operating at 50 volts or less within any portion of a dwelling unit unless that work is in conjunction with additional work that would necessitate the issuance of a building permit as required by Chapter 82 of the Harford County Code.

§ 105-13. Application for registration.

A. There shall be 4 classes of electricians' registrations, as follows:

- (1) Master electrician.
- (2) Limited electrician.
- (3) Restricted electrician.
- (4) Limited journeyman electrician.

B. Before the Department shall issue or renew an electrician's registration, it shall require the applicant to provide the following based upon registration class:

- (1) The applicant for a master registration must provide a copy of a validly issued Maryland master electricians license issued in accordance with Title 6 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.
- (2) The applicant for a restricted or limited master registration must provide the Department with such current information as to character, experience, education and training as it relates to the particular type of registration requested. All information shall be strictly confidential.
- (3) The applicant for a restricted or limited master registration must pass a written or oral examination conducted by the Board predicated upon the standards of the Electrical Code and rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto.
- (4) Pay to the County, at the time of filing the application, a nonrefundable fee in the amount as set forth in § 157-24 of this Code.
- (5) The applicant for a restricted or limited master registration must carry general liability insurance in the amount of \$300,000 and property damage insurance in the amount of \$100,000. Notice of cancellation of general liability insurance or property damage insurance shall be forwarded to the Board by both the applicant and the insurer within 10 days after the cancellation date. An inactive registration holder is exempt from this requirement.

C. It is the duty of the Director, upon receipt of an application for an limited or restricted

electrician's registration, to investigate the character, experience, training and education of the applicant and to provide the information to the Board.

D. It is the duty of the Board to certify to the Director within 60 days after the date of the applicant's examination whether the applicant is qualified for the registration applied for on the basis of an examination and the other required information provided.

E. In the case of application for renewal of an existing County electrician's registration, it is the duty of the Director to withhold issuance of a registration upon a finding by the Board that the registrant has committed acts which are in violation of the provisions of this chapter.

F. All approvals or denials of such applications shall be personally served or mailed by certified mail to the address on the application. Any person who has been denied a registration as a limited or restricted master or limited journeyman may appeal such decision in writing, which shall be served personally or by certified mail to the director of the department of inspections, licenses and permits within 20 days of receipt. Such appeals shall be heard by the director of administration.

§ 105-14. Master electrician's registration.

Any person who desires to install, repair, maintain or erect electrical equipment as a master electrician shall make application to the Director to be registered with the department.

§ 105-15. Limited electrician's registration.

A. Any person who desires to install, repair, maintain and erect electrical equipment as a limited electrician shall make application to the Director to be examined.

B. An applicant may be registered under this section for a particular type of electrical installation or may be registered for all types or as many types of limited electrical installations as defined in this chapter for which the applicant shall be found qualified by the Board. The applicant shall have been regularly and principally employed for 3 years preceding application in the applicant's area of limitation. The type of limited electrician's registration shall be set forth in regulations promulgated by the County. Particular registration classifications shall include, but not be limited to, registrations for electrical connections and circuits to HVAC

equipment, elevators, gasoline pumps, illuminated signs and similar specialties.

§ 105-16. Restricted electrician's registration.

A. Any person who desires to maintain, repair, renew or replace electrical wiring or equipment as a restricted electrician shall make application to the Director to be examined.

B. An applicant may be registered under this section only as to a particular place which will be noted on the registration certificate. The applicant shall have been regularly and principally employed or engaged in electrical construction or maintenance for 3 years preceding application for this registration. Additional provisions concerning restricted electrician's registrations shall be set forth in regulations promulgated by the County.

§ 105-17. (RESERVED)

§ 105-18. Limited journeyperson electrician's registration.

A. Any person who desires to install, repair, maintain and erect electrical equipment as a limited journeyperson electrician shall make application to the Director to be examined.

B. An applicant may be registered under this section for a particular type of electrical installation or may be registered for all types or as many types of limited electrical installations as defined in this chapter for which the applicant shall be found qualified by the Board. The applicant shall have been regularly and principally employed for 1 year preceding application in the applicant's area of limitation under the supervision of a limited electrician. The type of limited journeyperson electrician's registration shall be set forth in regulations promulgated by the County. Particular registration classifications shall include, but not be limited to, registrations for electrical connections and circuits to air conditioning, elevators, gasoline pumps, automatic heating furnaces whose principal operation is derived from fuel oil, gas, steam or coal, illuminated signs and similar specialties.

§ 105-19. Examinations.

A. The written and/or oral examination conducted by the Board for the limited, restricted or limited journeyperson electrician's registration shall be based upon standards of the

Electrical Code.

B. In order to qualify as having passed such examination, the applicant shall receive a grade constituting at least 70% of the total possible point credits in the examination.

C. The use of any unauthorized material or cheating by an applicant during an examination shall cause the immediate rejection of an application and bar an applicant from reexamination for 6 months.

D. Regular examination periods shall be held at least 3 times each year at intervals of not greater than 4 months. Written notice of the date, hour and place of examination shall be mailed to each eligible applicant at least 20 days prior to the date of the examination.

E. Any applicant who fails to pass any examination shall be afforded an opportunity to take a reexamination. Any applicant who has failed an examination for the third time shall submit evidence of successfully completing an examination preparation course related to the classification of registration that the applicant is applying for.

F. All written examinations and applicant records pertaining thereto shall be stored under secured conditions within the Department and shall be available for inspection, upon request made to the Board by the applicant, for a period of 6 months after the date of the examination.

G. The fee for examination for any class of registration issued under this Article and the fees for issuance and renewal of all classes of registrations authorized in this Article shall be set forth in § 157-24 of the Harford County Code.

H. Questions used in the examinations administered by the Department or the Harford County Electrical Board shall be taken from the prepared text formulated by the Maryland Uniform Electrical Licensing Examination Committee, Inc.

§ 105-20. (RESERVED)

§ 105-21. (RESERVED)

§ 105-22. Term of license/registration; renewals.

A. All master electrician registrations issued pursuant to this Article shall expire on April 30 of each odd-numbered year or upon expiration of their state license. All limited, restricted

1 and limited journeyman electrician licenses issued pursuant to this Article shall expire
2 on October 31 of each odd-numbered year. Applicants for registrations and renewals shall
3 pay to the County a fee for a master, limited, restricted, or limited journeyman
4 electrician's registration as provided for by Chapter 157 of the Harford County Code.
5 Applicants for renewals of a limited, restricted or limited journeyman electrician's
6 registration shall provide to the County certification of completion of a minimum of 5
7 contact/clock hours of electrical continuing education within the preceding licensing
8 period. However, the continuing education requirement shall not be applicable for the
9 renewal of a registration originally obtained during the same calendar year of the renewal.

10 (1) After May 1 of the year in which the master electrician's registration expires, a
11 person, firm or corporation shall not engage or hold themselves out as a master
12 electrician providing electrical services in Harford County unless the registration
13 has been renewed.

14 (2) After November 1 of the year in which the limited, restricted or limited
15 journeyman electrician's registration expires, a person, firm or corporation shall
16 not engage or hold themselves out as a limited, restricted, limited journeyman
17 providing electrical services unless the registration has been renewed. If
18 application for the renewal is made within 90 days after October 31, a registration
19 which expires because of failure to renew prior to November 1 shall be renewed
20 only on the payment of the renewal fee and the restoration fee. If the application
21 for renewal is not made within the 90-day period after expiration, a renewal for a
22 limited, restricted or limited journeyman electrician's registration may not be
23 issued and the Board may require compliance by examination before re-issuance as
24 if the applicant had never been registered.

25 (3) This section shall apply to anyone who has been issued a license by the Department
26 which was valid as of July 1, 2021.

27 (a) For master licenses, those licenses shall remain valid until the next

scheduled renewal period and those individuals shall be considered registered with the department with no further action necessary upon adoption of this bill.

(b) For journeyperson licenses, those licenses shall remain valid and those individuals shall be considered registered with the department. Upon expiration on April 30, 2023, a journeyperson will not be required to renew with the Department.

(c) For apprentice electrician's or electrician's assistant's licenses, those licenses shall remain valid until April 30, 2023, and those individuals shall be considered registered with the department. Upon expiration an apprentice electrician or electrician's assistant will not be required to renew with the Department.

(d) For limited, restricted and limited journeyperson licenses, those licenses shall remain valid and converted to registrations upon adoption of this bill.

§ 105-23. Continuation of work; effect of incapacity or termination of electrician.

A. No person shall be denied the privilege of continuing a contract business or maintenance or repair work, in the event of death, illness or other physical disability of the master, limited or restricted electrician who qualified the person for such license or registration, for a period not exceeding 120 days following the date of such death, illness or physical disability, provided that such business, maintenance or repair work is conducted under such qualified supervision as the Board deems adequate and that all requirements concerning insurance are first complied with and the Department is notified promptly by the licensee or registrant upon such death, illness or physical disability.

B. A person shall be allowed to continue a business or to perform maintenance and maintenance repair work for a period not exceeding 90 days should the master, limited or restricted electrician who qualified the person for such license or registration terminates their services therefrom, provided that the business, maintenance or repair work is conducted under such

qualified supervision as the Board deems adequate and that both of the following requirements are met:

(1) All insurance requirements are complied with.

(2) The master, limited or restricted electrician who qualified shall notify the Board in writing within 5 days after termination of services, or the person wishing to continue such business or work shall notify the Board in writing within 5 days after such master, limited or restricted electrician has terminated services.

§ 105-24. Transferability of registration; renewal.

A. No registration issued under this chapter shall be assigned or transferred.

B. No registration shall be renewed for any person until all of the requirements of this chapter have been met.

§ 105-25. Declaration of inactivity; records.

A. A registrant may, by notifying the Board in writing, declare a registration inactive. During the period such registration remains inactive, the yearly renewal fee as required by the County shall be paid. Insurance required by this chapter shall be waived for the period such registration remains inactive. No registration shall be deemed inactive unless all work for which permits have been issued has been completed and has received final inspection and approval by the Department.

B. The Director shall keep a register of all registrations placed on or removed from inactive status and of any master, limited or restricted electrician who changes an affiliation as a qualifying representative of any person. A registration placed on the inactive list may be returned to active status upon certification by the Board and upon proper notification and application in writing by the registrant. All requirements of this Article shall be complied with before such registration shall be restored to active status.

§ 105-26. Display of registrations; identification cards.

Anyone who is performing work under a permit issued by this department pursuant to this chapter or work required to be permitted by this Chapter of the Harford County Code shall produce, upon

request from an individual employed by the department, a valid state license and/or county registration as applicable. Department staff are empowered to require all individuals not able to produce proper credentials to leave the job site until those credentials are able to be properly presented for verification. This section shall not apply to a homeowner qualified under § 105-12 of this chapter.

§ 105-27. Duplicates.

If a registration is lost, defaced or destroyed, a registrant in good standing may obtain a duplicate upon filing an application to the Director and paying the cost of replacement.

§ 105-28. Revocation or suspension of registration.

A. The Board may suspend the registration of a master, limited, restricted, or limited journey person electrician or recommend to the Director that the registration be revoked, after a public hearing conducted in accordance with the Board's rules and regulations, if the Board finds that the electrician:

- (1) Obtained a license or registration by false or fraudulent representation.
- (2) Transferred the authority granted by the license or registration to another person.
- (3) Engaged in unfair or deceptive trade practices as defined in Commercial Law Article, § 13-301, of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended.
- (4) Willfully or deliberately disregarded or violated Codes enforced by the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits.
- (5) Aided or abetted any person to evade any provision of this chapter.
- (6) Knowingly combined or conspired with any person, by allowing a license or registration to be used by any unlicensed or unregistered person, firm or corporation, with intent to evade the provisions of this chapter. (Allowing a license or registration to be used by more than one person, firm or corporation constitutes prima facie evidence of an intent to evade the provisions of this chapter.)
- (7) Willfully or deliberately disregarded disciplinary action taken by the County.
- (8) Failed in any material respect to comply with this chapter.

(9) Failed to adequately train and control persons working under the master electrician's supervision.

(10) Violated the provisions of this chapter regarding permits.

B. The Board may suspend the registration of the registrant from all operations as an electrician for not more than 1 year. The Board may permit the registrant to complete any contract uncompleted at the time of suspension.

C. The Board, on request for reinstatement, shall conduct a hearing on the request and make a determination as provided under this chapter and its rules and regulations.

D. The lapse or suspension of a license or registration by operation of law or by order of the Board or a court or its voluntary surrender by a license or registration holder does not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to investigate or act in disciplinary proceedings against the registration holder.

E. The local Board shall inform the State Board or building officials of the names of those whose registrations have been suspended, revoked or reinstated within 30 days of such action.

Article IV. Installation Standards

§ 105-29. Standards considered minimum.

The standards and requirements of this chapter shall be based upon the currently designated edition of the National Electrical Code and amendments thereto as adopted by law and are hereby declared to be minimum standards and requirements. Any electrical equipment or installation which is equal or superior to such standards and requirements shall be deemed to be in compliance.

Article V. Administration

§ 105-30. Electrical Inspector.

A. Conflict of interest. An individual shall not have an interest, financial or other, in an electrical business while employed by the state, a county, or a local government as an Electrical Inspector. An official or employee connected with the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits, except one whose only connection is that of a member of the Board of Appeals,

established under the provisions of Appendix B of Chapter 82 of the Harford County Code, a member of the Harford County Electrical Board, [a member of the Harford County Plumbing Board or a member of the Harford County Mechanical Board,] shall not be engaged in outside employment nor compensated in any manner, directly or indirectly, involving the furnishing of labor, materials or appliances for the construction, alteration or maintenance of a building, or the preparation of construction documents thereof, nor shall such official or employee engage in any work that conflicts with the interest of the Department.

B. Inactive status; identification card.

- (1) On appointment or employment as an Electrical Inspector, the individual:
 - (a) Shall place the Harford County registration and a state license of the individual on an inactive-inspector status; and
 - (b) Except for the renewal fee shall meet the inactive status requirements of § 105-25 or this section.
- (2) The Board shall issue an Electrical Inspector identification card to an Electrical Inspector who has placed the State license and County registration on inactive status.
- (3) The Board shall not charge a fee to issue the identification card.

C. Change in status.

- (1) The Board shall change the status of an Electrical Inspector to an individual inactive status if the Electrical Inspector meets the requirements of § 105-25 of this chapter.
- (2) The Board shall change the status of an Electrical Inspector to an individual active status upon supplying to the board:
 - (a) An application for active status.
 - (b) Certificate of insurance according to the requirements of § 105-13B(5).
 - (c) Verification that the individual is no longer an Electrical Inspector.
 - (d) The applicable registration fee.
 - (e) The restoration fee.

1 Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act [is declared to be an Emergency Act
2 necessary for the County to comply with the new state law concerning the licensing of electricians,
3 the effect of which is to protect the public health, safety and welfare, and this Act shall take effect
4 on the date it becomes law]. SHALL TAKE EFFECT MAY 29, 2024.

5
EFFECTIVE: May 20, 2024

*The Council Administrator does hereby certify that
fifteen (15) copies of this Bill are immediately available for
distribution to the public and the press.*



Council Administrator