

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 916

(Senator Klausmeier)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Task Force to Study Licensing and Continuing Education Requirements for
Electricians

This bill establishes a Task Force to Study Licensing and Continuing Education Requirements for Electricians. The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) must provide staff for the task force. The task force must report its findings and recommendations for legislation to the Governor and General Assembly by November 15, 2013.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2013, and terminates June 30, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for DLLR are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The task force must (1) examine proposed changes to the State licensing requirements for electricians in the State; (2) review appropriate approaches for the licensure of electricians at the State and local level; (3) if a new approach to licensure is deemed appropriate, consider how this change affects currently licensed electricians and associated boards; (4) make findings and recommendations regarding the effect of statewide licensing on barriers to entry into the electrician marketplace; (5) make findings

and recommendations regarding the causal link between continuing education and benefits to the professional practice of an electrician; (6) make recommendations relating to statewide continuing education requirements for electricians; and (7) make recommendations for other legislation relating to licensing requirements for electricians.

Current Law: The State Board of Master Electricians in DLLR issues master electrician licenses to qualified individuals under the Maryland Master Electricians Act. Each county is required to adopt licensing qualifications comparable to or more stringent than specified State qualifications or require a State license. In a local jurisdiction that requires a local license, the State license serves only as a mechanism for obtaining reciprocal licenses in other local jurisdictions. In the two jurisdictions that do not have local licensing requirements, Garrett and Allegany counties, an electrician must have a State license to provide electrical services as a master electrician.

To obtain a State license as a master electrician, the applicant must have seven years of experience providing electrical services for all types of electrical equipment and apparatus, under the supervision of a master electrician or a similarly qualified employee of a governmental unit. With the board's approval, the applicant may count up to three years of formal education and training toward the experience requirement. All applicants, except those seeking inactive status, must maintain general liability insurance of at least \$300,000 and property damage insurance of at least \$100,000.

Background: The 2010 sunset review of the State board conducted by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) examined the issue of a statewide electrician license. In its evaluation, DLS recommended that the State board be allowed to terminate and that it be replaced by a new State Board of Electricians with statewide regulatory authority. However, the recommendation was not adopted by the General Assembly.

The report further recommended that the General Assembly adopt legislation to require master electricians to participate in continuing education as a requirement for license renewal. This recommendation was included in the legislation extending the termination date of the State board. Chapter 201 of 2011 (SB 235) required the State board to adopt regulations to establish continuing education requirements. As of February 2013, the proposed regulations were filed with the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review and further action is pending. The State board licenses approximately 5,200 individuals.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1386 (Delegate Haddaway-Riccio) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2013
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