

Chapter 655

(House Bill 1285)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Electricians Act – Revisions

FOR the purpose of requiring that the State Board of Electricians credit an applicant's work as part of certain apprenticeships for the experience required for certain electrician licenses; requiring the State Board to waive the examination requirements for certain applicants for a journeyman electrician license; adjusting the number of years an applicant for journeyman electrician must work under a certain circumstance; requiring that applicants for certain local permits have a State license to provide electrical services; providing for the delayed issuance of an electrical permit; ~~providing that certain proof is sufficient to establish that certain applicants have insurance coverage~~; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to examine certain memoranda of understanding; requiring the Department to attempt to renegotiate certain memoranda of understanding in certain circumstances; requiring the Department to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on certain memoranda of understanding; and generally relating to the licensure of electricians in the State.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
 Section 6–304, 6–307.1, and 6–603, and 6–604
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Business Occupations and Professions

6–304.

(a) To qualify for a State license, an applicant shall meet the requirements of this section.

(b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, an applicant for a master electrician license shall have been engaged or employed regularly and principally in providing electrical services for all types of electrical equipment and apparatuses for at least 7 years while under the direction and supervision of:

- (i) a master electrician; or
- (ii) a similarly qualified employee of a governmental unit.

(2) (I) The State Board may allow an applicant up to 3 years of credit toward the experience required under paragraph (1) of this subsection, if the State Board determines that the applicant has completed a formal course of study or professional training in electrical installation comparable to the required experience.

(II) THE STATE BOARD SHALL CREDIT TOWARD THE EXPERIENCE REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION AN APPLICANT'S WORK AS PART OF A SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ELECTRICIAN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE MARYLAND APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING COUNCIL OR THE FEDERAL OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP.

(c) (1) [An] **SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN** applicant for a journeyman electrician license shall have been engaged or employed regularly and principally in providing electrical services for all types of electrical equipment and apparatuses for at least 4 years while under the direction and supervision of:

[(1)] (I) a master electrician; or

[(2)] (II) an employee of a governmental unit who is similarly qualified as a master electrician licensed under this title.

(2) THE STATE BOARD SHALL CREDIT TOWARD THE EXPERIENCE REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION AN APPLICANT'S WORK AS PART OF A SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ELECTRICIAN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE MARYLAND APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING COUNCIL OR THE FEDERAL OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, the applicant shall pass an examination given by the State Board under this subtitle.

(e) The State Board may investigate the qualifications of each applicant to determine whether the applicant meets the requirements of this section.

6-307.1.

The State Board shall waive the experience **AND EXAMINATION** requirements for an applicant for a journeyman electrician license if the applicant:

(1) (i) provides written proof of [3] 4 years of work experience providing electrical services under the control and direction of a master electrician; and

(ii) submits an application for a license to the State Board on or before December 31, 2022; or

(2) provides written proof that the applicant has successfully completed an electrician apprenticeship program approved by the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council or the federal Office of Apprenticeship that consists of:

- (i) at least 576 classroom hours; and
- (ii) 8,000 hours of work experience.

6-603.

(a) An electrician may obtain an electrical permit or any other similar permit from a local jurisdiction, if the electrician:

- (1) **(I) HOLDS A STATE LICENSE; AND**
(II) is actively registered locally, if required, ~~or holds a State license;~~
- (2) shows proof of the State license; ~~and~~
- (3) pays any permit fee that the local jurisdiction requires; **AND**

(4) PROVIDES PROOF OF INSURANCE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 6-604 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(b) Before a local jurisdiction issues an electrical permit or similar permit to an electrician under this section, the local jurisdiction shall give the electrician notice of any local electrical requirements with which the electrician shall comply while providing electrical services in that local jurisdiction.

(c) **(1) [On] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ON** payment of the permit fee that the local jurisdiction requires, the local jurisdiction shall issue the appropriate permit to each applicant who meets the requirements of this section.

(2) ~~IF A LOCAL JURISDICTION REQUIRES MAY DELAY THE ISSUANCE OF AN ADDITIONAL ELECTRICAL PERMIT, INCLUDING A BUILDING PERMIT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT FOR A PARTICULAR JOB, THE LOCAL JURISDICTION MAY DELAY THE ISSUANCE OF THE ELECTRICAL PERMIT UNTIL THE ADDITIONAL PERMIT HAS BEEN ISSUED~~ UNDER THIS SUBSECTION IF, FOR A PARTICULAR JOB, THE LOCAL JURISDICTION REQUIRES THE ISSUANCE OF OTHER PERMITS, INCLUDING A BUILDING PERMIT, BEFORE ISSUANCE OF THE ELECTRICAL PERMIT.

~~6-604.~~

~~(a) This section does not apply to a State licensee on inactive status.~~

~~(b) A master electrician who is licensed by the State Board and provides electrical services or a person to whom a master electrician licensed by the State Board assigns a local registration under this title shall:~~

~~(1) maintain general liability insurance in the amount of at least \$300,000;~~

~~(2) maintain property damage insurance in the amount of at least \$100,000; and~~

~~(3) submit proof of the required insurance to the State Board.~~

~~(c) (1) (H) An applicant for a State license shall submit proof of the insurance required under this section to the State Board with the license application.~~

~~(H) AN APPLICANT FOR A JOURNEYPERSON ELECTRICIAN LICENSE MAY SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH BY SUBMITTING PROOF THAT THE APPLICANT IS WORKING OR PLANS TO WORK FOR A MASTER ELECTRICIAN WHO HAS FILED PROOF OF INSURANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.~~

~~(2) The State Board may not issue a State license to an applicant to whom the insurance requirements of this section would apply unless the applicant submits proof of the insurance.~~

~~(d) Unless an applicant meets the insurance requirements of this section, the State Board may not renew a State license of the applicant to whom the insurance requirements of this section would apply.~~

~~(e) If the insurance required under this section is canceled, the insurer shall notify the State Board within 10 days after the date of cancellation.~~

~~(f) If a local jurisdiction requires an applicant for a local license to execute a bond to the local jurisdiction, the applicant may satisfy the bond requirement by submitting proof of the insurance required under this section.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Maryland Department of Labor shall review each memorandum of understanding that the State has entered into with another state or territory guaranteeing a reciprocal recognition of electrician licenses to determine whether all licenses issued to master electricians under Title 6 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article is covered by the terms of the memorandum of understanding.

(b) If the Maryland Department of Labor determines that the terms of a memorandum of understanding do not cover a master electrician who is licensed in accordance with Title 6 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article, the Department shall seek to renegotiate the terms of the memorandum of understanding to include licenses for those master electricians who are not covered.

(c) On or before January 1, 2023, the Maryland Department of Labor shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on:

(1) any outstanding memoranda of understanding with other states or territories guaranteeing a reciprocal recognition of electrician licenses that:

(i) do not recognize master electricians authorized for licensure under Title 6 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article; and

(ii) that the Department was unable to renegotiate; and

(2) actions needed in order to guarantee that a license issued to a master electrician in accordance with Title 6 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article can be brought under the terms of a memorandum of understanding identified in item (1) of this subsection, including:

(i) any necessary legislation; and

(ii) any necessary appropriation of funds.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~June~~ July 1, 2022.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 29, 2022.