

SENATE BILL 326

L2

3lr2563
CF 3lr1480

By: **Washington County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington County – Electricians – Registration and Licensing**

3 FOR the purpose of altering requirements for members of the Washington County Board
4 of Electrical Examiners and Supervisors; altering requirements for the examination
5 and licensing of Restricted Electricians in the county; requiring Master Electricians
6 to be registered by the county instead of licensed by the county; altering the
7 Washington County Department of Permits and Inspections to be the Washington
8 County Division of Permits and Inspections; and generally relating to electrician
9 licensure and registration in Washington County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 The Public Local Laws of Washington County
12 Section 2–701(b)(5)(i), 8–101, 8–105, 8–106, 8–107, 8–109, 8–111 through 8–114, and
13 8–116
14 Article 22 – Public Local Laws of Maryland
15 (2019 Edition, as amended)

16 BY repealing
17 The Public Local Laws of Washington County
18 Section 8–104(b)(1)(i)
19 Article 22 – Public Local Laws of Maryland
20 (2019 Edition, as amended)

21 BY adding to
22 The Public Local Laws of Washington County
23 Section 8–104(b)(1)(i)
24 Article 22 – Public Local Laws of Maryland
25 (2019 Edition, as amended)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **Article 22 – Washington County**

2 2–701.

3 (b) (5) (i) For any fiscal year, this paragraph applies to the development of
4 a single subdivision where the Washington County [Department] **DIVISION** of Permits and
5 Inspections has issued more than 25 building permits for new residential units in that fiscal
6 year.

7 8–101.

8 (a) In this subtitle, “Board” means the Board of Electrical Examiners and
9 Supervisors.

10 (b) The County Commissioners shall appoint a Board of Electrical Examiners and
11 Supervisors, consisting of 5 individuals, for the purpose of examining into the qualifications
12 and capabilities of all individuals who are engaged or desire to engage in the business of
13 Master Electrician as defined in this subtitle.

14 (c) The Board shall consist of 4 competent individuals who are familiar with the
15 electrical business. Those individuals shall [have been] **BE** residents of the county [for at
16 least 5 years]. One individual shall be selected from an electric public utility company doing
17 business in Washington County, 2 individuals shall be from among the [duly licensed]
18 **REGISTERED** Master Electricians in the county, and 1 member shall be appointed
19 at-large. Their term of office shall be for 2 years.

20 (d) The fifth member shall be designated by the Washington County Fire and
21 Rescue Association and shall be an active member of a Volunteer Fire Company in the
22 county. The term of office of this member is 2 years.

23 (e) Should a vacancy occur during the term of any member, the County
24 Commissioners shall appoint an individual to fill the vacant position. The County
25 Commissioners may remove any member of the Board for incompetency or improper
26 conduct upon satisfactory evidence being presented to it of the condition.

27 8–104.

28 (b) (1) The Board shall adopt rules and regulations for:

29 [(i) The examinations and licensing of Master Electricians and
30 Restricted Electricians;]

31 **(I) THE REGISTERING OF MASTER ELECTRICIANS AND THE**
32 **EXAMINATIONS AND LICENSING OF RESTRICTED ELECTRICIANS;**

1 8–105.

2 (a) (1) In this subtitle, Master Electrician means and includes any and all
3 individuals engaged in the business of, or holding themselves out to the public as engaged
4 in the business of installing, erecting, or repairing, or contracting to install, erect, or repair
5 electric wires or conductors that are used for the transmission of electric current for electric
6 light, heat, or power purposes, or moldings, ducts, raceways, or conduits for the reception
7 or protection of such wires or conductors, or to any electrical machinery, apparatus, devices,
8 or fixtures to be used for electric light, heat, or power purposes.

9 (2) In this subtitle, “Restricted Electrician” means any individual who has
10 been found competent by the Board of Electrical Examiners and Supervisors to engage in
11 limited fields of electrical work.

12 (b) (1) A “Master Electrician” [license] **REGISTRATION** issued in accordance
13 with the provisions of this subtitle and the rules and regulations of the Board entitles any
14 [licensed] **REGISTERED** individual to engage in the business of and to hold himself out to
15 the public as engaged in the business of installing, erecting, and repairing and of
16 contracting to install, erect, and repair any electric wires or conductors, etc.

17 (2) A “Restricted Electrician” license issued in accordance with this subtitle
18 and the rules and regulations of the Board permits any licensed individual to engage in the
19 business of and to hold himself or herself out to the public as engaged in the business of
20 installation and repair of the particular category of electrical equipment and apparatus
21 described in the rules and regulations of the Board and on the license.

22 (c) This subtitle does not apply to any firm or corporation if the individual
23 managing and in charge of the electrical work for the firm or corporation is a Master
24 Electrician [licensed] **REGISTERED** under this subtitle.

25 8–106.

26 (a) Before any individual engages in the business of a [Master Electrician or]
27 Restricted Electrician in Washington County, that individual shall apply to the Board for
28 a license examination **OR RECIPROCATÉ FROM THE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION WHERE**
29 **THE EXAMINATION WAS ADMINISTERED.**

30 (b) The Board shall hold license examinations 4 times annually at a time and
31 place determined by the Board.

32 (c) Examinations shall be administered and results determined according to the
33 rules and regulations of the Board.

34 8–107.

1 (a) (1) Before the issuance or the renewal of a Master Electrician's [license]
2 **REGISTRATION** or a Restricted Electrician's license, an individual shall deliver to the
3 Board a certificate of comprehensive general liability insurance, including completed
4 operations coverage, with limits of \$300,000 for bodily injury and \$100,000 for property
5 damage.

6 (2) The certificate of insurance shall be issued to the "Board of Electrical
7 Examiners and Supervisors of Washington County" with the applicant's name, and
8 company name if applicable, appearing on the certificate.

9 (3) A holder of a Master Electrician's [license] **REGISTRATION** shall
10 forward any notice of cancellation of insurance to the Board within 10 days of the
11 cancellation date.

12 (4) Insurance obtained in compliance with this section shall relieve the
13 applicant for a Master Electrician's [license] **REGISTRATION** from any requirement to
14 furnish a separate surety bond.

15 (5) An applicant for a Restricted Electrician's license shall also comply with
16 the insurance requirements of this section.

17 (6) Holders of an inactive Master Electrician's [license] **REGISTRATION**
18 are exempt from the insurance requirements of this subsection.

19 (b) The fees shall be determined by a fee schedule adopted by the County
20 Commissioners.

21 8-109.

22 The Board may revoke or suspend for proper cause any **REGISTRATION OR** license
23 or **REGISTRATION OR** license renewal after a full hearing of all parties in interest.

24 8-111.

25 This subtitle may not be construed to prevent any individual from doing or
26 performing any of the kinds of work enumerated in this subtitle if that work is performed
27 under the direction and supervision of a [duly licensed] **REGISTERED** Master Electrician.
28 The [licensed] **REGISTERED** Master Electrician shall be responsible for any and all work
29 done under the authority granted by the Master Electrician's [license] **REGISTRATION**.
30 Any person working under the authority of a Master Electrician's [license] **REGISTRATION**
31 shall work under the direct supervision of the [licensed] **REGISTERED** Master Electrician.

32 8-112.

33 (a) A person is guilty of a misdemeanor who:

1 (1) Practices, engages, or continues in the work of a Master Electrician or
2 a Restricted Electrician without compliance with all the provisions of this subtitle;

3 (2) Performs the work of a Master Electrician or a Restricted Electrician
4 while not **REGISTERED OR** licensed as, or under the supervision of, a Master Electrician
5 or a Restricted Electrician, respectively;

6 (3) Has been [licensed] **REGISTERED** as a Master Electrician or
7 **LICENSED AS** a Restricted Electrician and who fails to renew his **REGISTRATION OR**
8 license and performs the work of a Master Electrician or a Restricted Electrician; and

9 (4) Violates any of the provisions of this subtitle.

10 (b) (1) Upon conviction, the person shall be fined not less than \$250 nor more
11 than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 90 days, or both.

12 (2) Any conviction automatically shall revoke and annul any license that
13 may have been issued to that person.

14 8–113.

15 (a) A **REGISTRATION OR** license or **REGISTRATION OR** license renewal granted
16 or issued under the provisions of this subtitle shall specify:

17 (1) The name of the individual to whom it is issued; or

18 (2) If the Board has authorized the assignment of the license **OR**
19 **REGISTRATION** or license **OR REGISTRATION** renewal, the name of the individual to
20 whom it is assigned.

21 (b) An unlicensed individual, firm, or corporation may not obtain a permit to
22 perform electrical work under the authority of a licensee.

23 8–114.

24 All fees collected under the provisions of this subtitle shall be collected by the
25 Washington County [Department] **DIVISION** of Permits and Inspections.

26 8–116.

27 (a) An electric light or power company may not attach its power lines or electric
28 meters to any consumer's property within the borders of Washington County unless and
29 until a temporary or permanent meter cut-in certificate has been issued by the Washington
30 County [Department] **DIVISION** of Permits and Inspections.

1 (b) The Washington County [Department] **DIVISION** of Permits and Inspections
2 shall issue a meter cut-in card to the power or electric company furnishing the electricity
3 to the consumer's property.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2023.