To All Our Members, Supporters and Friends:

The Board of Directors of the Electric League wishes all of you a pleasant, restful, and healthy summer. We know you will take time out of your busy schedule to be with family and friends so that you are refreshed and ready for fall and all of its meetings, events, and many responsibilities.

After two successful Lunch and Learn Seminars (Electric Vehicles and Solar Energy Grids) and participating in an informative field trip with our inspector associates, we've decided to break for the summer. In the meantime, plans are coming together for a fall Lunch and Learn Seminar and our annual November Shrimp Feast. More information will be shared early in September, so look for interesting topics for discussion, events, and dates and locations to be announced.

For your consideration, we are including in this issue of news items the History of Electrical Licensing, some interesting proposals to change the Electrical Law of Maryland, and a list of all of the past and existing legislation that has brought about major changes, both for the State and local jurisdictions.

We know it's a large amount of material to take in, but we think it is worthwhile for all segments of our industry to be informed. After reading this material, we hope you will realize what has happened in the past, how we are dealing with advancements in the present, and what is planned in the future for the greatest trade and industry in America and in Maryland – the electrical trade.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

A recent article in the May-June issue of the NFPA Fire Protection Journal reinforces much of the information that the Electric League has been sharing with our members and readers of our News and Notes.

Did you know by using the statistics of the NFPA it is both sad and interesting to report that on an average there's an annual 61,000 electrical fires, causing more than 2 billion dollars in property value loss, that results in 432 deaths, all related to some form of electrical failure in the United States every year?

Most of the fire marshals and officials providing the information pointed out that there are many reasons that these troubling statistics exist because:

- Most jurisdictions having authority lag behind in their code adoption process. Some areas are as many as two or three code cycles behind.
- It was noted that only 22 of our states have adopted the National Electrical Code as a state-wide standard and sometimes it is not even the latest edition that has been adopted.
- Enforcement personnel do not have the time or the expertise to assure that there is proper compliance to regulate new, innovative ideas, the latest electrical products so code compliance takes place.
- The permit and review process to obtain the proper authorization to conduct electrical installations can be too complicated and time consuming, so many installations are begun and done without the proper permits.
- Authorities having jurisdiction do not or are not allowed to participate in conferences and seminars that promote and educate inspectors about new concepts or innovations that will allow new products and ideas to be used in their particular area.
- Unqualified people who do not have the skills or the training to begin performing electrical work without proper oversight just install unauthorized work.
- It is also noted that when original systems are installed, they usually are forgotten about. It was suggested that there should be some kind of inspection and/or remediation of the systems when an occupancy is changed.

We've written articles before about these same difficulties experienced in our trade, so maybe it is time for all interested parties to participate in trying to develop new legislation that will help provide additional safety and enhance our industry, while not crippling it. We want to advance not cripple our trade.

- ✓ Shouldn't there a registration of all electrical apprentices as they learn the trade?
- ✓ Shouldn't there be the licensing of journeypersons who are the skilled workers installing the electrical installations?
- ✓ Shouldn't there be state-wide continuing education required for those active persons in supervisory positions to become knowledgeable in all aspects of installing electrical work?
- ✓ Shouldn't we adopt a workable, up-to-date, state-wide electrical code (the latest edition of the NEC), with allowances for some exceptions for special conditions that exist in certain areas?
- ✓ Shouldn't the legislation tighten up rules and regulations that will exclude unauthorized, unpermitted, and uneducated persons from installing the new, complex electrical work?

It was noted in the article that at least 14,000 tradespeople will be needed to replace retiring workers and to recruit new electricians to keep up with demand,

Additionally, in the article from NFPA, a few ideas were mentioned about **some proposals being offered for the new 2020 NEC.** It was called "staying current."

A new proposal for regulations over P.O.E. (Power Over the Ethernet). **Since P.O.E. cables** are often bundled, heat dissipation becomes a concern, so there may be new tables limiting the number of P.O.E. cables that can be bundled. Remember, these cables are used for communication as well as supplying power to equipment which

make a building "smart." Lights can come on in unoccupied spaces, equipment can be sequenced, to come on only when necessary such as energy conservation systems for heat, air conditioning, receptacles, and loads that are not being used but will be used when properly sequenced.

Note – there is also thought being given to new ideas about how to treat **basic fire alarm systems**. (Consider the active shooter situation that has arisen in schools and other community areas). By pulling the normal fire alarm system, areas can be emptied so that they become easy targets for the active shooter. Maybe, with the proposal offered for 2020 fire alarms, systems can be devised that take a picture of the person pulling the alarm, sends a silent alarm to a central monitor that will only activates the alarm for that area when it is also integrated with the smoke and sprinkler devices. With proper supervision, limitations can be incorporated that will send a signal to the local fire departments and first responders to help provide safety in some of these buildings. Also, as previously written in the **News and Notes,** there may be special equipment and protection needed for special elevators for high rise buildings that can be used when there are emergencies (some people cannot cover 30 and 40 flights of steps). There must be some way to protect the electrical signaling and devices to allow those particular elevators to be used by the public instead of just fire personnel.

There are also proposals for new tables to be added to supplement the existing ones for **load calculations for feeders and branch circuits.** There will be new percentages allowed for LED lighting and other energy reducing materials that we have already seen that can drastically reduce the load on conductors, whether the load is on the feeder or branch circuit conductors. Now, the existing lighting calculations can result in oversized systems because we have not taken into account the energy conservation methods being offered.

However, the tables also may have to be adjusted in the reverse that occurs in horticultural lighting. New medical and other marijuana systems are energy intensive. For example, a 5,000 square foot marijuana growing facility was tested and used 29,000 kilowatts compared to 1,000 kilowatts for an average home.

Another emerging issue that has been a focus for a few years is **ESD (Electrical Shock Drowning),** which occurs when a person comes into contact with electrified waters in areas such as marinas, boatyards, etc. Boats and vessels and docks containing electrical systems can leak current into the surrounding water. There are proposals being made to have 30 MA protection on individual branch circuits and feeders on the docks. This will be in addition to the 100 MA already required of the feeder along with signage that says "be cautious about currents that can be in the water." Another part of the proposal will require boats, vessels and other watercraft to be tested for any leakage current prior to receiving shore power, as they seem to be most of the part of the problem. Now, only large vessels are required to be inspected (over 40 feet) and controlled by electrical codes through the Coast Guard, as the National Electrical Code does not cover boats and water craft and most anyone can wire them as they see fit. The American Boat and Yacht Council has provided information and recommendations which can be viewed for compliance (see NFPA.org/70).

There are proposals to try to alleviate dangers that are occurring in large courtyards and outdoor areas of commercial buildings where people are trying to charge electronic equipment and provide **convenience outlets** for other equipment. There are all kinds of code violations and there should be new sections that will require the proper placement, installation, and safety precautions required for these outlets.

As we all can see the electrical industry has become very complex; think of wind power, solar, fuel cells, alternative power sources, etc. Isn't it a challenge and can't we become part of the achieving and enhancing of the electrical trade and offer new, innovation ideas? Let us use our imagination to innovate and at the same to control the industry for the sake of safety. Can't we see that an industry such as ours really needs skilled individuals who are well educated and familiar with the codes which ultimately provide the protection for the general public?

Gil Thompson, *News and Notes Liaison*

THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND

TITLE 6 – ELECTRIC LAW OF MARYLAND

INTRODUCTION AND PROPOSED CHANGES

SINCE THE EARLY 1900S, OFFICIALS ACROSS THE STATE HAVE BEEN AWARE THAT THE USE OF ELECTRICITY COULD POSE POTENTIAL RISKS TO THE LIFE, SAFETY, HEALTH AND PROPERTY DAMAGE TO THE CITIZENS OF MARYLAND. LOCAL JURISDICTIONS (AT VARIOUS TIMES), ESTABLISHED ELECTRICAL ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS TO REGULATE ELECTRICITY IN THEIR LOCAL AREAS.

DUE TO ELECTRICITY'S RAPID GROWTH, INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS SUCH AS CHANGES IN GENERATION, ALTERNATIVE POWER SOURCES (SOLAR, WIND, FUEL CELLS, HYBRID DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, ETC.) AND THE COMPLEXITY OF INSTALLATIONS, VARIOUS SEGMENTS OF THE INDUSTRY (ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS, CONTRACTORS, INSPECTORS AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS), HELPED DRAFT AND PASS THE STATE ELECTRICAL LAW IN 1984.

THIS EXISTING LAW NOW ESTABLISHES UNIFORM TESTING STANDARDS, QUALIFICATIONS AND PROCEDURES TO LICENSE AND REGULATE MASTER ELECTRICIANS STATEWIDE. IT SETS MINIMAL INSURANCE LIMITS WHICH BENEFITS EVERYONE AND ALLOWS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES TO FLOURISH ACROSS JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES WITHOUT SELF-INTEREST BARRIERS.

SINCE 1984, PERIODICALLY, ADJUSTMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO TITLE 6 TO ACCOMMODATE THE MANY CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY.

ALTHOUGH THE PRESENT SYSTEM HAS OPERATED SATISFACTORY FOR OVER 30 YEARS, IT'S FELT, ONCE AGAIN, BY THE INDUSTRY, THAT REFINEMENTS NEED TO BE MADE TO TITLE 6 IN ORDER TO BETTER PROTECT THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND ADD GREATER INTEGRITY TO THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY.

THERE ARE ALSO CONCERNS ABOUT A TRADE WITH A GREAT NUMBER OF "GRAYING" OR RETIRING EXPERIENCE WORKERS, LEADERS AND OFFICIALS. THE INDUSTRY WANTS TO OFFER THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS TO ENSURE A SKILLED WORKFORCE IS RETAINED AND OFFER WAYS TO RECRUIT AND ENTICE FUTURE WORKERS TO BECOME PART OF A REWARDING AND CHALLENGING CAREER OR VOCATION AS THEY PROVIDE A VITAL SERVICE TO THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS.

THEREFORE, JOURNEYPERSONS AND APPRENTICE SHOULD BE ADDED TO ELECTRICIANS THAT ARE LICENSED BY THE STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD. IN ADDITION TO CONTINUING EDUCATION, NOW REQUIRED OF MASTERS, ACTIVE JOURNEYPERSONS WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO HAVE 10 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION.

Legislative Report – Gil Thompson

WRITTEN IN 2002 FOR ELEC LEAGUE NEWS

License for Master Electricians first offered statewide in 1984:
In 1906, the General Assembly established the Board of Electrical Examiners and Supervisors. Although administered by the State, the board licensed and regulated electricians working only in Baltimore City, the State's sole urban center at that time. This board continued to operate until 1983. On July 1 of that year, the board ceased to exist because the State authorized the transfer of the board's records to a successor board created by Baltimore City.

The following year, in 1984 the General Assembly created the State Board of Master Electricians to provide for statewide licensure. It was placed under the authority of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR, previously the Department of Licensing and Regulation. And operates under the provisions of Title 6 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article.

Almost all local jurisdictions also license electricians: In most cases, a State license does not grant the licensee the authority to provide electrical services; instead, it **facilitates** the process of obtaining the local license needed to conduct electrical work in a specific Maryland jurisdiction or in the states of Delaware or Virginia. All but four Maryland counties maintain a local electrical board to provide for the licensing and regulation of electricians. As required by statute, counties with local boards must establish licensing qualifications comparable to those required by State law. Jurisdictions which opt not to establish local licensing regulations **must** require a State license for providing electrical services as a master electrician. The only counties that do not maintain electrical boards are Allegany, Caroline, Garrett, and Somerset. Some of these counties have discussed the possibility of establishing a local board. The law also permits municipalities to establish local licensing boards or adopt regulations of the county in which the municipalities are located. Annapolis, Gaithersburg, and Rockville are three that have chosen this option.

The State Board recently established agreements with Delaware and Virginia to **facilitate** the attainment of a reciprocal master electrician license using a **Maryland State license**.

Reciprocity between jurisdictions within Maryland was not set forth in law until 1976. Prior to then, electricians wishing to work in multiple jurisdictions had to take the examinations required by each local board. Because jurisdictions typically offered examinations only twice per year, electricians often missed opportunities to bid on contracts while waiting to complete the license application process. In 1976, the General Assembly required local jurisdictions to waive examination requirements for qualified applicants holding a license from another Maryland jurisdiction. Because of perceived or real disparities in the difficulty level of examinations, some jurisdictions were reluctant to issue reciprocal licenses. Electricians believed that, given these concerns, local boards failed to process applications for reciprocal licenses in a timely manner.

The Maryland Uniform Electrical Licensing Examination Committee, Inc. (MUELEC) facilitated the implementation of the reciprocity law. Committee members volunteered to develop a test bank of questions for use on all examinations offered by local jurisdictions. The standardization of the local examinations helped ensure that all local licensed holders possessed the same minimum qualifications. This eased jurisdictions' concerns about issuing reciprocal licenses. MUELEC members continue to revise the test bank of questions as well as address other issues of concern to the industry. The introduction of a State license in 1984 provided an additional vehicle for obtaining a reciprocal license on a timely basis (must be issued within 10 days). As stated above, in all but four counties, a State license may be used only to expedite the issuance of a local license or obtain a reciprocal license from Delaware or Virginia.

The State board offers only one level of licensure, that of a master electrician. Master electricians possess a broad range of experience, knowledge, and skills to provide electrical services in all aspects of the electrical trade.

Individuals without extensive experience in conducting electrical work may operate under limited or restricted licenses granted by local jurisdictions. Restricted licenses typically permit an electrician to conduct work on specific systems such as air conditioning, heating, and low-voltage signaling. Limited licenses generally specify that an electrician work on a particular type of property, such as single-family homes, structure or in a specified geographical area. In counties that do not offer licensure of these types of licenses, individuals conducting restricted or limited work are not regulated.

After Baltimore City started requiring a license to provide electrical services in 1906 the following history for establishing electrical boards and requiring a local license took place.

***NOTE:** Some jurisdictions could not sanction the exact dates as their old records have been removed and they only have active electricians registered. However, information was gotten through personal experience and recollection of prior or current electrical board members and most felt the following information is accurate.

Anne Arundel County – 1927, Cecil and St. Mary's Counties – 1939, Harford, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties – 1940-1943, Calvert, Charles and Baltimore Counties – 1950, Kent County – 1960, Queen Anne County – 1963, Worcester and Howard County – 1973, Washington County – 1974, Carroll County – 1975, Frederick and Talbot Counties – 1977, Dorchester County – 1978, and Wicomico County – 1979. Caroline County has enabling legislation but as yet not established and electrical board. Allegany, Garrett, and Somerset Counties still need legislation to establish an electrical board.

AS OF 2004 → NOW HAS OCJW ELEC BD.

As will be noted all the local boards were in existence prior to the State Electricians Act of 1984 and were regulating the electrical industry within their local areas. They were using the various license fees to pay the expenses required for that local administration. Naturally these counties do not want to give up the revenues or local control as it is needed to provide the people who investigate and satisfy the complaints of local residents.

In addition to a "Masters" license, most jurisdictions require other types of electrical licenses such as limited, restricted, maintenance, and general.

This makes reciprocity also difficult to administer, as not all electrical licenses are alike. Some areas only allow an electrical licensee to install certain electrical products, such as signs, heating/AC only, elevators only, low voltage systems only, etc.... Some licenses restrict their licensees to work only on various systems such as telephone, computer, bugler/security, fiber optic, industrial controls, etc... which do not match the type or class of license issued by other counties or cities. Some electricians are allowed to work only on single-family homes or "power systems" of 60 amps or less capacity, which also does not match the class or type issued by authorization

This year the State Electrical Board is under a full evaluation. The Department of Legislation Review must make a decision as to whether or not the State Electrical Board will be abolished or remain as with improvements. There are also questions about continuing education, statewide journeyman's license, and registration of apprentices. As you can see the electrical industry in Maryland is in somewhat of a turmoil and the political situation has to be considered when decisions are made that could affect local people.

The main objective of electrical laws is to protect the public and with vision, hard work, and positive input from our supporters, we are sure that we can come up with solutions that will enhance our electrical industry for years to come.

(B)

March 30, 2016

HISTORY of Electrical Laws of Maryland

Under the Annotated Code of Maryland Article 43 entitled "Health":

Section 822 – defines an electrical installation

Article 823 – established the electrical code with the exceptions of local jurisdictions to adopt their own code

Section 824 – requires that meters must have an official cut-in certificate by qualified inspection agency

Senate Bill 414 – authorizes the State Fire Marshal to establish what a qualified inspection agency is

House Bill 501
Senate Bill ? – 1976 establishes statewide reciprocity which authorized local boards to waive examinations

MUELEC organization is formed to begin uniform examinations for each jurisdiction in the state

Senate Bill 151 – 1984 established the statewide master electrician licensing bill

House Bill 1656 – 1985 establishes a statewide basic insurance requirement and the requirement that local jurisdictions must issue their licenses within of 10 days of proof of state license

Senate Bill 706 – 1985 also established reciprocity for restricted and limited license and the qualification for licensing and to hold a local license

Senate Bill 219 – 1986 establishes reciprocity and the fees for the licensing from state to state and that a person taking a state license must get a local license within 60 days of passing the exam

House Bill 303 – 1988 establishes the mechanism for obtaining the local license and not allowing 2 firms to be under one license holder, the definition of who is principally employed, establishes a license for inactive status

Senate 597 – 1989 requiring counties to adopt regulations and qualifications equal to the state

Senate 92 – 1994 requires a state license if no local licensing board is established and requires the application, fees, following deadline, etc.

House Bill 869 – 1995 time period altered for the expired inactive license fees to renew and that the state board is to meet twice a year with local jurisdictions to discuss licensing problems

House Bill 461 & Senate Bill 1304 – 1997 the expiration of license and the state board (Sunset Review), renewal fees, and staggered license renewals (2 years)

Senate Bill 201 – 2002 approved the state board for another 10 years (Sunset Extension) which extends state licensing board and additional requirements

Senate Bill 456 – 2002 requiring local boards to notify the state board of any disciplinary action

Senate Bill 235 – 2011 Sunset Extension continuing education required for masters renewal, must comply with the state board regulations

Senate Bill 350 – 2013 licensing requirements for electrical inspectors (also plumbing inspectors) qualifications – certification by locality, national association, combination inspectors, etc.

House Bill 168 – 2014 board members who do not attend certain number of meetings shall be considered to have resigned (electrical, plumbing, heating, etc.)

EXPANCE – WORDING OF SENATE BILL 456 CLARIFIES LOCAL AND STATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Business Occupations and Professional Article, Maryland Annotated Code, §6-321 requires that a local jurisdiction that initiates disciplinary action against a licensee to report such proceedings to the Board within 30 days. That is, *before a decision is rendered*, when the action is "initiated" so that the State Board can advise the other local jurisdictions (it then becomes the responsibility of the State Board and local jurisdiction to follow-up with regard to the outcome). Further, by December 1 first of each year, the local jurisdictions are required to provide the State Board with the number of complaints against local licensees. The specific language if this provision is set forth here:

(a) (1) When a county or municipal corporation that requires a local license initiates a disciplinary action against a licensed master electrician, the county or municipal corporation shall report the disciplinary action to the State Board within 30 days of commencement of the action.

(2) When the State Board receives notice of a local disciplinary action against a licensed master electrician, the State Board shall provide notice of the disciplinary action to each local licensing jurisdiction.

(b) Each local licensing jurisdiction shall submit a report to the State Board on the number of complaints against master electricians licensed in the local jurisdiction on or before December 1 of each year.

(1)

As a Board member of MUELEC, MELG, the Maryland Electric League, the International Association of Electrical Inspectors, and some electrical contractor's associations, I thought I would take on a task of alerting all segments of the electrical industry by suggesting changes that should make Maryland a leader in providing better electrical safety to its citizens, be an innovator in establishing state-wide uniform codes and standards, and begin a consensus process to better serve the electrical industry now and in the future.

Note – this is a five-page report that has taken a great deal of time and effort to put together. Please review the following concepts, ideas, and suggestions so we can coordinate an effort this fall to explain and clarify the issues offered.

Background

The State Board of Master Electricians (Title 12 of Business Occupations) DLLR will be reevaluated for the 2020 legislative session and a decision will then be made as to whether the State Electrical Board should be abolished or allowed to remain as it is. Since the initial electrical legislation was put into place in 1984, the State Board has been evaluated twice since then (every ten years as required by law). The Master Electrician's Board and electrical law have been given approval by the legislature to continue because of support from the various segments of the electrical industry. The positive comments made by our industry attest to the fact that its purpose of establishing standards for qualifying master electricians for licensure, establishing uniform test questions and procedures, and helping to foster fair and equitable licensing procedures across the state while allowing for business expansion and continued public safety from electrical hazards seems to be working well. Even though several revisions have been added over the past 35 years, it seems the electrical industry has become more complex, diversified, and challenging. **Consequently, proposals have been made to update the electrical law and to add procedures that will help licensing across the state.**

The industry should support the retention of the State Electrical Board and take the most positive features of the existing law and then try to implement the **following proposals:**

- The title of Master Electricians should become titled the State Board of Electricians. This change would allow for different categories or classes of licenses (explanation of the categories will follow in the article.).

- Next, establish a state-wide electrical code so the citizens and electrical tradespeople are aware of what is required for electrical installations. It should read as follows:

  - *The latest edition of the National Electrical Code shall be enforced state-wide after its adoption and when given an effective implementation date by the State Fire Marshall's Office.*

  - *When approved by the State Fire Marshall's Office, adjustments or special exceptions shall be allowed to accommodate local health, fire protection, or environmental regulations, conditions, or rules. These exceptions shall be in written form, be distributed or made available for review by all – especially when a new license or special electrical permit is issued.*

- What follows next are proposed changes that will allow for different categories or classes of licensure and registration:
Keep the definition for Master Electrician and add new definitions for the other classes as described below:
Master Electricians. This means an individual who has the experience, knowledge, and skill to provide electrical services in all aspects of the electrical trade, in a manner that complies with applicable plans, specifications, codes, State laws, or local administrative
Journeyperson Electricians – this means an individual who is qualified to install, repair, maintain, and erect electrical wiring, equipment and systems in accordance with all electrical codes under the direction and control of a licensed master, restricted or limited person.
Restricted Electricians – means individuals providing electrical services to install, service, or maintain low voltage wiring systems (under 60 volts). Examples ~~would be~~ such as security systems, telephone, TV, computerized energy management, fiber optics, computers, communications, and network broadband.
Limited Electricians – means an individual providing limited electrical services to install, service, or maintain specified products such as signs, heating and air conditioning, elevators, escalators, hoist-ways, escalators and cranes, etc. It limits the associated wiring to those pieces of equipment only.
Apprentice Electricians – means a person currently enrolled in an approved apprenticeship program and is permitted to assist a licensed master, journeyperson, restricted or limited electrician within the rules, scope, and limitations of the apprenticeship program.
Registered Laborer – means any person not licensed under this title. They shall be under the control of a licensed master, journeyperson, restricted, or limited electrician when assisting in providing any electrical services. (This will allow for seasonal, summer help, or any additional workers needed to assist on the job site; although not licensed, they shall be registered.)

  This proposal will require all Master, Journeypersons, apprentices, restricted and limited electricians throughout the state to hold a license or registration issued by the State Board of Electricians (an exception will be made for the existing five counties who already license journeypersons – explained later). This feature will require all active master, restricted, and limited electricians who are taking out permits and performing electrical services to carry property and liability insurance ($100-$300,000).

- Require that only the Maryland Uniform Electrical Licensing Examination Committee (MUELEC) exams be used as standardized uniform accredited exams and be given to all applicants for licensure. (This will include all classes or categories. MULEG already has exams prepared on those various categories). MUELEC

- Establish a State-wide journeyperson license. All those persons licensed would pay only one fee. The State license would authorize them to work in any jurisdiction of the State without paying additional fees to any local authority.

- Allow the five jurisdictions which are already licensing journeypersons to continue to test and license those persons using only MUELEC accredited exams.

- However, the identification card these five counties issue will have the same authority as the one issued by the State (no additional fees – not even to the State – and those journeypersons can work anywhere). *Note: If local fees are higher than the State fees, it would only make sense for that journeyperson to just carry the State license and forget the local one.*

- Establish a State-wide apprentice license issued by DLLR only to apprentices enrolled in a Maryland approved program, they would be under the supervision of the MD or U.S. Department of Labor that is based on 586 classroom hours and 8,000 hours of on-the-job training.

- Establish a State-wide Restricted and Limited License. These type license holders would have the same benefits as our existing Master's license. Only one insurance policy would cover them State-wide. By keeping one local (home license) and the State license, it would allow them to either renew, drop, or obtain any other local jurisdiction licenses.

- When needed, local Boards would then be required to issue the license within 10 days. If they are no longer working every day in the field, they would be allowed to put their license on inactive status.

- Require that the existing reciprocity system stays in affect for any other local types of license not covered under the restricted or limited categories (examples could include appliance repair, maintenance, ~~cranes, elevators~~, special limitations, properties or type of work) – this will assure that no one would be put out of business.

- Require all active master, journeypersons, restricted and limited license holders to have 10 hours of continuing education for license renewal. Inactive license holders would not be required to obtain the 10 hours of CEU's, but would have to obtain no less than 5 hours of continuing education within 6 months once their license was activated.

- Require that a person may not provide electrical services for local compensation in the State without the appropriate license and must obtain the proper permits for that work.

- Require that the State license holder advertising or providing electrical services must display on all vehicles used their own State license number. Contractors could be controlled by their State number so no other local license number would be allowed or needed.

- Require that only licensed or registered people be employed.

- Require that a master, journeyperson, restricted or limited license holder be on the job site overseeing the installation while work is being performed.

- Require all local inspection authorities or third party inspectors to enforce the job sites so that only licensed persons or skilled workers are supervising and installing the work. If persons are unknown to the inspectors, they will ask for proper identification.

- Require that if any local authority (because of limited laws or statutes) cannot impose penalties or fines, then given the State Board of Electricians the authority to control unlicensed persons and work done without proper permits by imposing $1,000 fine that could escalate to $5,000 (depending upon situation and the number of violations).

Grandfathering

- The existing State Electrical Law requires all master electricians to be licensed. However, some may not hold the Maryland license, but only the one in the jurisdiction where they live or work. The proposed law will require all masters to hold a Maryland State License, so for those who do not now hold a State License, all that would be required would be to provide proof of an authorized local jurisdictional master license; they could be issued a Maryland State License without further examination.

- The proposed law will require journeypersons to be Maryland State Licensed. Since there are five jurisdictions that now license journeypersons, those electrical boards would provide a list of all authorized journeypersons who are now under that board's control and supervision.

- For those persons not holding one of those local jurisdictional journeypersons license, those persons must provide proof that they have worked in a journeypersons capacity under a licensed master electrician for 8 years. If the 8 years of experience cannot be proved, then they must take an accredited examination to become licensed.

- Recognized apprenticeship programs, along with the State Apprenticeship Authority, shall work together to provide a list of apprentices to be licensed by DLLR, since all apprentices must be licensed under the new proposal.

- The proposed law would require all restricted and limited electricians to be Maryland State Licensed. They would be required to show proof of an authorized local restricted or limited license in order to be issued the new Maryland State License without further examination.

  For those persons not holding those types of license, those persons must be provide proof that they have worked in that category or class under a licensed master, restricted or limited electrician for 3 years. If that proof is not provided, then they must take an accredited examination.

- All of the grandfathering provisions will take place within a two year period. Otherwise, persons who have not taken advantage in the two year period must take an accredited examination to be licensed.

(5)

Fees

- Establish reasonable fees for the new proposed changes as follows:
- Exam fees will still be set by DLLR – but first and two year renewal fees will be:
  Master - $50 – inactive $40
  Journeyperson - $40
  Restricted/Limited - $30
  Registered Laborer - $30
  Apprentices - $10 (apprentices already pay a fee to State Apprenticeship Programs)

- It has been estimated that over $600,000 will be generated by these reasonable fees. These revenues should be enough to pay the Electrical Board Members a small fee of $3,600 per year, plus their expenses, provide the necessary personnel to operate the program and help with the expenses for rent, telephone, computers, and printing.
- The proposals offered will give lawful and certified status to all electricians performing electrical services in Maryland. It will also allow the State to control State-wide the licensing of the various categories and classes of electricians.

- Everyone will be issued a certified, State-wide number, which will be required to be carried as a pocket card or displayed as signage for identification. This will allow the general public to check any electrician's status if necessary.

The State Department of Licensing and Regulation must be willing to compromise in its effort to control and regulate everything electrical. They must realize that 20 different local jurisdictions have their own electrical law, ordinances, and rules, which they feel better serves their local constituents.

However, all of us must remember the State Electrician's Law was only put into effect in 1984 and prior to that legislation, electricians were completely controlled or regulated on the local level only. Local authorities have ordinances or laws that set up local electrical administrative boards, permit processing fees, the hiring of authorized individuals, and enforcement procedures. They are not willing to give up that control, have budget restraints, and desire the ability to be able to solve any local electrical problems quickly. Certainly local jurisdictions have their own departmental issues and do not wish to lose the existing funding that allows them to operate.

On behalf of the electrical industry, I implore you to review this lengthy report; be ready to give your input concerning the above proposals. Perhaps then a "bill writer" will put these proposals into the proper legislative language so that all segments of our industry are satisfied.

Gil Thompson
Chair of the Electric League Legislative Committee

Members of the low-voltage community have reached out to MACo as they plan to introduce a bill that will attempt to resolve some of the concerns surrounding the statewide electricians bills that have been introduced in past sessions (HB 1407 – 2018; HB 1368 – 2017; SB 616 – 2015). From my talks with the stakeholder group, they do not intend to pursue the same sort of broad and significant changes, such as preempting locals, that were in the prior introductions. Rather they would like to focus on creating statewide licenses for journeypersons and low-voltage electricians and maintain a process by which counties retain their authority to require and oversee their local licenses.

I don't have a draft bill yet. An outline of the concepts for the bill is attached. The group has sought county input on potential legislation that would:

1. Allow local licenses to continue where they currently exists. Jurisdictions that have specific local licenses would be grandfathered.
2. Require counties to accept state licenses as proof of experience and education to obtain local licenses. The intent is to create a passport of sorts. A local license would still have to be obtained where required with all current oversight and fees. However, if an electrician obtains a state master electrician license or one of the newly created state licenses (journeyperson and low-voltage) they could use the required state experience and education as proof of education and experience to obtain the necessary local license.
3. Create new state licenses for Journeyperson and low voltage electricians.

Please let me know if you have any feedback or concerns with such a proposal.

Thanks,
Natasha

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7 Attached Images

Concepts

Master Electricians

- Leave as is at state level
- Allow local license
- Require local government to accept state license as proof of experience and education
- Masters can do High & Low Voltage

Journeyperson Electricians

- "Journeyperson electrician" means an individual who is: licensed by the board to provide electrical services while under the direction and control of a master electrician.
- Create state license
- Empower licensing board to create program
- Grandfather in those with local journeyman licenses
- Allow local license in counties that have existing Journeyperson Licenses
- Require local government to accept state license as proof of experience and education
- Journeypersons can do High & Low Voltage

Low Voltage Electricians

- Definition: "Low-voltage services" means any electrically operated services, including but not limited to electrical services governed by the following sections of the version of the National Electrical Code, ANSL/NFPA 70 adopted by the Department: Article 411- Low-Voltage Lighting, Article 640- Audio Signal Processing, Amplification, and Reproduction Equipment, Article 645- Information Technology Equipment, Article 720- Circuits and Equipment Operating at Less Than 50 Volts, Article 725- Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3 Remote-Control, Signaling, and Power-Limited Circuits, Article 750- Energy Management Systems, Article 760- Fire Alarm Systems, Article 770-Optical Fiber Cables, Article 800- Communications Circuits, Article 810- Radio and Television Equipment, Article 820- Community Antenna Television and Radio Distribution Systems, Article 830- Network-Powered Broadband Communications Systems, Article 840- Premises-Powered Broadband Communications Systems.
- Create state license
- Empower licensing board to create program
- Grandfather in those
    - licensed or registered under Title 18 Of This Article To Provide Security Systems Services;
    - local limited, low voltage or restricted licenses who provide low voltage work
- Allow local license
- Require local government to accept state license as proof of experience and education

State Electrical Board

- Add 2 Electrical inspectors
- Add 2 Low voltage