



News and Notes Summer Issue

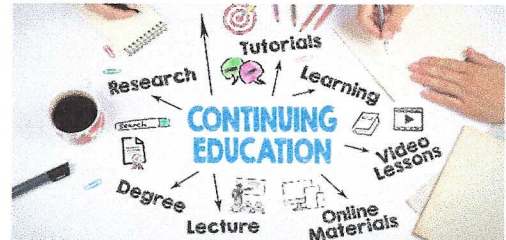


Annual Bull & Shrimp Feast

We will hold our annual bull and shrimp feast at Rosedale Gardens on Saturday 11/16/24 from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. The cost will be \$50.00 per person and includes good food, fun, music, and fellowship. Look for tickets and raffle information in late August or early September.

Continuing Education Class

We will hold a 2 ½ hours continuing education class in late September. Reasonable cost (\$50) to help journey persons and masters to renew their license. We received great feedback from the last class with Mike Robinson, who has agreed to come back as the instructor for this class on 10-21-24.



PLEASE READ

You'll find a new approach to our News and Notes with a new category called **Reminders and Reviews (R/R)**. This will allow persons who want to know more about the Electric League, its purpose, its operation, and the latest news concerning pressing issues. Attached, please find the most recent Reminders and Review.

Attached please find the proposed amendments and answers to questions concerning the implementation date of the NEC and the proposals about Senate Bill 298, 762, 830, and House Bill 149.

Included in this issue is a summary of licensing regulations, testing, proposals to institute statewide electrical codes and local as well as state procedure to establish penalties on persons who refuse to abide by laws or ordinances already passed to protect life, property, and localities and also all of the electrical trade.

Please note we are in the process of updating our website to include past issues of our News and Notes, upcoming events and continuing education opportunities, legislation, etc.

Let's keep on being proponents for our industry as we will always need new trade persons. **Advocate** to young people to join the electrical industry, a vocation that guarantees a great income and a good living standard. They will always have work because a good electrician is needed everywhere. They'll never be bored because innovative ideas and initiative is always rewarded. This will produce competent, skilled electricians who will provide for the safety of persons and property and produce a product that has not changed. **Electricity; Where would we be without it in today's society?**

Have a great and healthy summer!
- Gil

March 30, 2016

HISTORY of Electrical Laws of Maryland

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

Section 882 – defines an electrical installation

Article 823 – established the electrical code with 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 – 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 staged 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 – certifications 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.)

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 jurisdictions 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 license 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 before December 1 of each year.

The Electrical Law of Maryland Title 6 – Master Electrician

- Requires all electrical work installed in Maryland to come under the control and supervision of a licensed Master Electrician.
- Masters must be licensed by the Department of Labor and Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) and also take a local license in any jurisdiction that has enforcement authority to issue work permits.
- Active Masters must carry liability and property damage insurance (minimum 100,000/300,000) to protect the public.
- Masters must also obtain 10 hours of Electrical C.E. (Continuing Education) prior to the renewal of their 2-year State License.

To qualify for a Master’s License, an applicant must provide proof that they:

- Have had at least seven (7) year’s work experience under the control and supervision of a licensed Master Electrician.
- Upon validation of seven years of successful work experience, an applicant must then pass a uniform qualifying electrical examination and pay the examination and licensing fees.

OR

- Be a Licensed Master Electrician in another State that has comparable qualifications to Maryland law and that State has signed an agreement of reciprocity with the State of Maryland (DLLR).
- See website www.dllr.state.md.us for additional details on applications, fees, testing sites and time, etc. or contact the State Electrical Board at 410.230.6163.



To help electricians as they begin their electrical vocation, apprenticeship training and programs have been established to help in supplementing the educational process. Contact information is below:

Organized Labor Schools and Groups		Non-Union Groups in MD, DE, and Northern VA	
Baltimore Area	410.247.5511	ABC	410.821.0351 (Press 2)
Washington Area (and Northern Virginia)	301.459.2900	IEC (Baltimore)	800.470.3013
Eastern Shore (Salisbury)	410.742.0234	Harford County	410.879.5824
Western Maryland (Cumberland)	301.724.3403	Southern Maryland	301.373.3030

Or, for specific Maryland Counties, contact the Maryland Apprenticeship Training Program at 410.767.2233 (a list of county-by-county programs is available).

A note from Gil Thompson -

Many questions have been raised concerning what edition and implementation date of the NEC is being enforced State-wide and if local amendments are still allowed. Some local areas are using the 2017, the 2020 and the 2023 of the NEC so it is confusing as to where you work and what code is used.

Also, questions have been raised as to whether or not local Administrative Electrical Boards still have the authority to penalize violators of local ordinances and restrictions, prior to sending them for an official hearing at the State Electrical Board. This issue was supposedly resolved ten years ago with Senate Bill 456 which gave local Administrative Boards the power to settle violations locally. Local problems solved on a local level can be quickly done compared to trying to schedule official hearings at a State level. This procedure helps lessen the work load of the State Board and the scheduling required for hearings. (See attached Senate Bill 456. Law offices of the State or Counties will have to reconcile the difference between licensing and registration)

In my opinion, we could change some wording in Senate Bill 762. In section 205 of Title 6, to help solve local infractions and notifications the word "State-wide" should be inserted in the section that states that "The latest edition of the National Electrical Code shall be used and enforced 18 months after its adoption". Also, 70E – Electrical Safety in the Workplace – should be added in this section. Section 205 part 3 should be clarified by dividing it into 3 parts as follows:

- (i) All authorities that have jurisdiction to administer, create and enforce code standards State-wide will enforce, within 18 months of its issuance, standards of the latest edition of the NEC 70 and 70e.
- (ii) Section 6-316 is to be enforced State-wide by any Maryland Local Administrative Boards or Commissions (There are some local areas that DO NOT have certified electrical boards and inspections are being done by private parties and they should be required to have the same qualifications as certified inspectors)
- (iii) See Section 6-301: It should state "ALL AUTHORITIES", not "Each Counties" and a section (b) (2) should be added to say as follows: 'Any local amendments for reasons of fire protection, health and safety shall be listed and notification given to registered Electricians doing work in that area.

By adding the word "State-wide" and including NEC 70E, OSHA, MOSHA and the State insurance companies will know that Maryland is using the latest addition of electrical codes and are in compliance with workplace safety for electricians.

State certified electrical inspectors must be current licensed State Masters and have continuing education credits to renew those licenses.

Trends have started for local jurisdictions to appoint State approved Inspectors to certify some electrical installations. They can no longer hire the proper personnel for this task and they do want special amendments which are allowed for on page 28 of Senate Bill 762 if the word "amendments" is added to Section 6-603 part B.

I have included old Bill 456 which will be enhancing the penalties recently noted in Senate Bill 298 which will add Section 6-316 to the State Electricians Law. Section 6-316 should be enforced on a State-wide basis and should read as follows:

State-wide, any person who violates any of the regulations of Section 6-316 shall be penalized. When and if a Local Authorized Electrical Administration cannot resolve the infraction(s), then that person shall be sent to an official hearing at the State Electrical Board.

Here is a copy of Senate Bill 456:

"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 the 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 of or before December 1 of each year. "

This clarifies Local disciplinary action. After talking to different Electrical Board Members, I do not believe any are in compliance with the above law even though MUELEC members voted 10 years ago to do this.

-Gil Thompson

To: martin@deerfield.com

MUELEC is trying to offer amendments to clarify and improve some provisions of the electrical law of Maryland (Senate Bill 762).

Attendees at the May 22nd meeting discussed the issues and with consensus for action approved the proposed amendments so that Maryland can set an example for regulating our electrical industry.

Attached are the 5/22/24 minutes and the copies of the proposed amendments for your review. Cooperation of each local licensing or registration agency is needed. I've attached a review of the present electrical law to help you.

Thought it may be a good idea to list the benefits already made to protect the public and administrative bodies.

- Maryland has set standards and regulatory rules that require Maryland State issued licenses for masters, journey persons, apprentices, inspectors, and uninsured trade persons.
- The passport system has been retained (now it's called Local Registration.) However, it saves time and money for everyone.
- Disciplinary control over their own local areas, permit fees and daily operations procedures is retained.
- State electrical boards have to help with any discipline problems.
- Basic insurance coverage protects the public and makes it easier for the licensee because they do not have to take individual bonds or separate insurance policies.

The new proposed amendments will make the latest addition of the National Electrical Code 70 and 70E (Electrical Safety in workplace that is to be used *Statewide*).

The proposals will make sure that a competent, qualified, uniform electrical exam using the latest additions of the electrical code will be used.

Writing to you brings an appeal to help pay the expenses occurred in exam preparation- adding new questions, revising old texts and references, time for typing, flash drives and new books etc. These are provided to the state electrical board and is done without any governmental revenues or local financial help. Your \$100 membership fee is a small price to pay to receive these benefits.

Talk to your finance and office of law departments as well as permits administrators so they can understand.

Respectfully submitted,

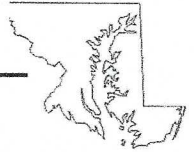
Gilbert L. Thompson Executive Secretary MUELEC Organization

MARYLAND UNIFORM ELECTRICAL LICENSING EXAMINATION COMMITTEE, INC.

MEMBERSHIP:

ONE MEMBER FROM EACH ELECTRICAL LICENSING BOARD IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND

MUELEC



TO: All Members of MUELEC

DATE: June 19, 2023

After the May 17, 2023 MUELEC Meeting, NFPA was contacted to establish the exact date the 2023 NEC edition was officially adopted. The date given was **September 23, 2022**, with an allowance of one month for general distribution to the public due to problems NFPA encountered in labor, shipping, and material shortages resulting from the pandemic.

As you are aware, the NEC is always on a three-year Code Cycle. This allows input from the public and industry leaders to change, revise, or add rules or new products or systems to update and enhance safety. Over a three-year period, data is collected, and professionals debate what proposals can be accepted, rejected, or held for future consideration.

This process will result in a new 2026 NEC edition, which would be published and adopted tentatively in late 2025. This three-year cycle has been occurring for many, many years, and jurisdictions across the country have long benefitted from the expertise involved in bringing the best of electrical safety to the American public.

Because of the Covid pandemic and a new electrical law being passed, MUELEC members voted for an 18-month or more delay in changing the State Electrical Exam questions. It allows local educators and tradespersons the opportunity to study, digest, evaluate and familiarize themselves with the Code edition that would be used for the exams via special computer courses and code change books.

This same thinking was applied in trying to implement the **latest edition** of the NEC **statewide** because of trouble establishing an implementation date for enforcement of that Code.

This 18-month delay would also allow the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to evaluate the effect a new version of the electrical code would have in their locality. It will also help to coincide with the State Fire Marshal's implementation of the latest version of the N.E.C. The 18-month delay also allows the AHJ to have time to coordinate with their building, zoning, planning, health, fire, security, energy, and electrical inspection divisions/authorities to properly enforce the new code – all for the sake of public safety. If special amendments to the electrical code are necessary, the AHJ would have time to publish them and have them available to registered persons in their area taking out electrical permits. You may not be aware of this, but there are nine (9) Counties or Municipalities that do not have their own electrical inspection divisions. They must depend on qualified, authorized, and private inspection agencies to coordinate local amendments and up-to-date inspections.

In the past, unqualified, unskilled people performed electrical installations, and some deliberately defied local regulations, making it necessary to define and clarify basic **statewide** definitions, rules, and regulations that would protect the life and property of the public and the electrical industry. What faced those who were overseeing licensing and inspections was an increase in loss of life and property due to electrical accidents, fires, and faulty and illegal installations. Please see the reverse side of this letter to review existing laws that were put into place prior to 1986 and the passage of Title Six (the first **Statewide** Electrical Law).

For basic safety, legislation began to be passed from 1970 on that took up such issues as:

- A definition of what really constitutes an electrical installation
- Defining that a licensed person must perform that work
- Defining what electrical code is to be used (amendments or special restriction by different localities allowed)
- Who can inspect those installations (governmental or authorized inspectors only)
- Rules that an official cut-in certificate has to be issued to electrical utilities before electrical power could be introduced to any facility, structure, or property)
- What kind of electrical material and product had to be used (recognized, listed, and labeled material only)

A booklet containing legislation of interest to each jurisdiction and special associates has been put together. It is almost 50 pages in length, but has been condensed for easier reading and mailing. This booklet represents some of the issues that faced the electrical industry in the past and the attempts of professionals to solve problems through legislation. If a person wants actual copies of the Bills, you can contact Legislative Services at 410.946.5400 or dial 1.800.492.7122, ext. 54.

MUELEC does not have a website where this material could be posted, and as you can imagine, it is costly to send it to our MUELEC mailing list of over 75 individuals, and a large document does not always go through to government addresses via E-mail.

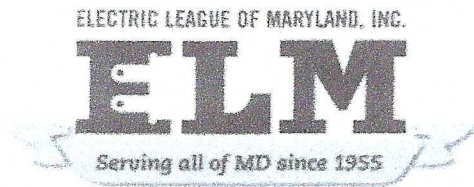
We have opted to send one copy to each jurisdiction and special associates and hope that once seen and reviewed, that you will make copies and share with anyone on your Board or in your sphere of influence who might be interested in its contents. There are still Administrative Boards which have not paid their 2023 dues, and we are operating from a small Treasury, so we hope you will understand our need for conservative spending. We hope you will advise your financial office of the important role that MUELEC has in providing uniform testing, licensing, and code regulations and send your 2023 \$100 dues if you have not already done so.

We are counting on all of you to continue to protect the public, despite the challenge of implementing the latest edition of the NEC. It is my opinion that we can solve our problem with the 18-month delayed provision and its local implementation by using the word "statewide" for the NE.C. and our fiscal procedural delay in changing examination questions.

Feel free to contact me at 410.592.7676 or at susanjeanne@verizon.net if you have questions or want to discuss any of these issues. Best wishes for a safe and rewarding summer.

Gil Thompson, Executive Secretary
MUELEC Organization

12-page, double-sided, half sheet pages sent to each jurisdiction.



Electric League of Maryland

P.O. Box 4

Fork, Maryland 21051


443-478-9935


March 15, 2024

For the Spring issue of our News and Notes please find a different type of format. It is an idea that could help our industry if put on our website for everyone to evaluate and make positive comments or express your view when necessary.


Let us start with some examples:


Reminder:  Review: 

 **Reminder:** The Department of Environment wanted to impose a \$150.00 extra license fee for electricians to work on sewage systems.

 **Review:** Because of concerted efforts and letter writing it will not happen.


Note*: See letters and response for details on our website. No extra fee required.

 **Reminder:** There is a Senate Bill 298 that will require the state Electric Board to impose strict penalties and fines on persons who violate the electrical laws of Maryland (section 6-316).

 **Review:** Although supporting and agreeing to the intent to regulate violators, I personally think an amendment should be added to make it apply statewide to all local authorities having jurisdiction. The amendment would read on opening to Section 6 – 316 of Title Six – Electrical Laws of Maryland as follows:

Statewide any person who violates any of the regulations of Section 6 – 316 shall be penalized when and if a local authorized electrical administration cannot resolve the infraction or infractions. Then that person shall be subject to a hearing at the State Electrical Board.

Note*: Persons complying with 6 – 316 requirements would not be part of the problem so should not object to the Bill or the amendment.

 **Reminder:** House Bill 149 passed that changed the classification of an inactive state license holder to fall into a status known as “uninsured” and clarifies the entities authorized to certify journeypersons who have completed 586 classroom hours and 8,000 hours of work experience.



Review: Because of input and time spent with the Bill Sponsors ELM clarifies that a state licensed "uninsured" license holder would be allowed to work as a journeyman or supervisor without paying the insurance cost required of a Master Electrician registered to take out permits. This changes their license classification. However, they must produce CE credits, work under a Master that carries insurance and cannot advertise or sign contracts for electrical installations.



Reminder: House Bill (830) passed last year and went into effect on October 1, 2023. This Bill sets a state requirement on electrical vehicle charging for all newly constructed single-family dwellings. All new single-family dwellings are required to have a minimum 40 ampere, 208/240-volt circuit with a NEMA 14 – 50R receptacle with a circuit overcurrent device.



Review: As you will note, this is a state mandate, adding a new expense to new housing.

Personal choice is taken away and some people may not want to buy an EV. I think there are some questions that need to be asked. Think about the following:

- Who enforces the Bill and what kind of penalty is imposed for non-compliance?
- The complex nature of defining *"Housing Units," "Single-Family Dwellings," "Detached Houses," "Duplex's" "Town Houses"* all subject to Residential Building Codes is not easily done. (to many variables with no answer, such as no driveway or garage on the premise).
- Houses built in flood plains have height requirements for electrical wiring and equipment regarding height, disconnects and parking. Have these been considered?
- Has the 125% rule been applied? EV charging is considered continuous duty (over 3 hours).
- How many dwellings can be installed on one service, feeder, or supply (so far, no demand factor has been passed by the NEC, like the tables for ranges and dryers)?
- Have adapters been made, tested, and labeled to accommodate existing EV chargers for persons who already own an EV and do not want to change?
- Can the existing electrical grid handle this kind of additional load?

Note*: Hoping electricians, designers, and builders are aware of the problems and most inspection agencies can not possibly take on another task of enforcement.



Reminder: Work is being done on House Bill 762 to make sure the NEC 70 and NEC 70E is a statewide code in its latest and future editions to be used for enforcement, testing and as the uniform statewide standard while allowing for essential local amendments. This will ensure public safety, security, and uniformity statewide.



Review: The state began using the **2020 NEC** edition for testing on February 1st of this year. The state will begin using the **2023 NEC** edition for testing starting February 1st, 2025. MUELEC has been authorized to begin the process of submitting new examination questions for testing based on the **2026 NEC** edition, when it becomes available. This will allow the 18-month delay written into the law to be instituted.



Reminder: Sometimes code issues or questions arise that are hard to understand what the real intent or purpose behind them is. Examples of this are found in several of the questions listed on our website. Hopefully, it will help you understand how hard it is to prepare examinations that are fair, trustworthy, and really do test for competency.



Review: We are fortunate to be associated with code making panel members who are members of the IAEL, and they gave us the permission to use the Eastern Section Code Seminars attended by over 300 electrical inspectors as a helpful tool to share with ELM members (*See questions and answers on our website labeled Leo Martin Memorial Code Breakfast*).

Progress is being made by working together with the State, ELM, and associates in advancing our electrical industry. We wish you a safe, healthy, and prosperous spring.

For questions or comments write to: Electric League of Maryland, P.O. Box 4, Fork, MD. 21051, or call Gill Thompson at 443-478-9935.

Thank you.