HOUSE BILL 1368

By: Delegate Hornberger
Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2017
Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Electricians – Local Licenses – Repeal

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that an individual be licensed by the State Board of Master
4 Electricians before the individual provides certain electrical services in the State;
5 repealing the authority of a local board to issue a local license to provide certain
6 electrical services; providing that local jurisdictions may locally regulate certain
7 work by establishing a system of registrations designed to take action against certain
8 registrants, and to report enforcement action to the State Board; authorizing
9 licensees who have certain local licenses to renew the local license before a certain
10 date under certain circumstances; providing that local licenses will no longer be valid
11 on and after a certain date; repealing certain provisions relating to the issuance,
12 authorization, assignment, and renewal of, and the reciprocal waiver of
13 requirements for, local licenses; requiring the State Board to provide certain notice
14 to local licensing boards; defining certain terms; altering certain definitions; making
15 conforming changes; and generally relating to the repeal of local electricians’
16 licenses.

17 BY repealing
18 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
19 Section 6–302, 6–307, and 6–321; 6–401 and 6–402 and the subtitle “Subtitle 4.
20 Assignment of Local Licenses”; 6–501 through 6–506 and the subtitle “Subtitle
21 5. Reciprocity”; and 6–601 and 6–602
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
25 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
26 Section 6–101, 6–103, 6–202(c), 6–301, 6–303, 6–304, 6–305, 6–306,
27 6–309 through 6–315, 6–316(a) and (b), 6–319, 6–320, and 6–604
28 Annotated Code of Maryland
29 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
BY renumbering

Article – Business Occupations and Professions
Section 6–306.1; 6–603, 6–605, and 6–606 and the subtitle “Subtitle 6. Miscellaneous Provisions”; and 6–701 and 6–702 and the subtitle “Subtitle 7. Short Title; Termination of Title”, respectively to be Section 6–306; 6–401, 6–403, and 6–404 and the subtitle “Subtitle 4. Miscellaneous Provisions”; and 6–501 and 6–502 and the subtitle “Subtitle 5. Short Title; Termination of Title”, respectively

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2010 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)


SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Business Occupations and Professions

6–101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) (1) “Assignment of local license” means any procedure by which a licensee grants to another person a right to use a local license to enable that person to engage in the business of providing electrical services.

(2) “Assignment of local license” includes any procedure by which:

(i) a licensee agrees to be the representative of another person; and

(ii) by virtue of that agreement, the other person is authorized to engage in the business of providing electrical services.

(c) “Engage in the business of providing electrical services” means to engage in providing electrical services for compensation.

(d) “License” means, unless the context requires otherwise, a license THAT IS issued by the State Board [or a local jurisdiction] to [provide electrical services] A

MASTER ELECTRICIAN.
“Licensed master electrician” means, unless the context requires otherwise, a master electrician who is licensed by the State Board [or a local jurisdiction] to provide electrical services.

“Local board” means a board that a local jurisdiction of the State creates to regulate any aspect of the electrical trade.

“Local license” means, unless the context requires otherwise, a license that is issued by a local board to provide electrical services as a master electrician.

“Master electrician” 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, or law.

“Provide electrical services” means to provide any service in the electrical trade.

(2) “Provide electrical services” includes installing, repairing, or altering any electrical wiring, fixture, appliance, apparatus, raceway, or conduit that:

(i) generates, transmits, transforms, or uses electrical energy in any form for light, heat, power, or communication; and

(ii) is located within a plant, substation, or elsewhere.

“State Board” means the State Board of Master Electricians.

“State license” means a license that is issued by the State Board to a master electrician.

This title does not affect the right of any local jurisdiction of the State:

(1) to regulate LOCALLY the quality and character of work of a person who engages in the business of providing electrical services by establishing a system of [licenses] REGISTRATIONS, permits, fees, and inspections designed to:

(i) ensure compliance with and implementation of State and local building laws; or

(ii) enforce other local laws protecting public health and safety;

(2) to require a person who engages in the business of providing electrical services to submit any plan or specification for approval before the electrical services are provided; AND
(3) to establish a local board TO:

(I) CARRY OUT ITEMS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION;

(II) TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE AUTHORITY OF A REGISTRANT TO PROVIDE ELECTRICAL SERVICES IN THAT JURISDICTION; AND

(III) REPORT ANY ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY TO THE STATE BOARD.

(4) except as provided in §§ 6–504 and 6–602 of this title, to require an examination before issuing a license to provide electrical services within the local jurisdiction; or

(5) to collect, from a person who is licensed with a local board, fees for:

(i) an examination for a license to provide electrical services;

(ii) issuance and renewal of the license; or

(iii) an inspection.

(b) If a local jurisdiction licenses any class of electricians other than master electricians, that class is also under the control and supervision of the local board.

This title may not be construed to waive any requirement of an ordinance or regulation that sets out the type of work to be performed by a person who engages in the business of providing electrical services as required under State or local building laws.
(2) (i) require a State license for providing electrical services as a master electrician; and

(ii) enforce the provisions of this title.

(b) Each municipal corporation shall:

(1) adopt regulations that have qualifications comparable to, or more stringent than, § 6–304 of this subtitle to provide for the licensing and regulation of master electricians;

(2) adopt the electrical rules and regulations of the county in which the municipal corporation is located; or

(3) (i) require a State license for providing electrical services as a master electrician; and

(ii) enforce the provisions of this title.

(A) Except as provided in subsection (B) of this section, an individual shall be licensed by the State Board before the individual may provide electrical services as a master electrician in the State.

(B) (1) An individual holding a local license but not a license issued by the State Board on October 1, 2017, may:

(I) continue to provide electrical services under the local license until not later than September 30, 2020; and

(II) apply one time for a 2–year renewal of the local license.

(2) An individual may not apply for renewal under this subsection for more than one local license.

(3) On and after October 1, 2020, any local license issued by a local jurisdiction of the State to provide or assist in providing electrical services is no longer valid, regardless of the expiration date of the license.

(c) Each licensed master electrician shall display the [State] license number [or the county license number] of the licensee on each vehicle used on the job for providing electrical services.
A county or municipal corporation may not adopt a resolution or enact a law that requires a person licensed under this subtitle who is compliant with subsection (c) of this section to display additional license numbers on each vehicle used on the job for providing electrical services.


(a) This subtitle does not require an individual to hold a [State] license while the individual provides electrical services as an employee or subordinate of a master electrician licensed by the State Board if:

(1) the individual provides electrical services while under the control and supervision of the licensee; and

(2) the licensee is responsible for the electrical services that the individual provides.

(b) This subtitle does not require:

(1) a public utility company to employ a master electrician to represent the company while the company is engaging in the business of providing electrical services to a facility of the company that:

(i) is regulated by the Public Service Commission; and

(ii) is located on any premises, roadway, or right–of–way in which the company has a lawful interest; or

(2) an employee of a public utility company to hold a [State] license while the employee provides electrical services to a facility of the company that:

(i) is regulated by the Public Service Commission; and

(ii) is located on any premises, roadway, or right–of–way in which the company has a lawful interest.


(a) To qualify for a [State] license, an applicant shall be an individual who meets the requirements of this section.

(b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the applicant shall have been engaged or employed regularly and principally in providing electrical services for all types of electrical equipment and apparatus 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) 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.

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

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

[6–305.] 6–304.

An applicant for a [State] license shall:

(1) submit to the State Board an application on the form that the State Board provides; and

(2) pay to the State Board or the State Board’s designee an examination fee set by the Board in an amount not to exceed the cost of the required examination.

[6–306.] 6–305.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in [§ 6–306.1] § 6–306 of this subtitle, an applicant who otherwise qualifies for a [State] license is entitled to be examined as provided in this section.

(b) The State Board shall give examinations to qualified applicants at least twice a year, at the dates, times, and places that the State Board determines.

(c) (1) At least 15 days before the examination, the State Board shall notify each applicant whether the applicant is eligible to be examined under this section.

(2) The notice shall specify the passing score for the examination.

(d) (1) The State Board shall determine the subjects and scope of the examination from a list of questions submitted by the Maryland Uniform Electrical Licensing Examination Committee, Inc.

(2) The State Board shall choose examination questions that:

(i) test the applicant’s knowledge of all applicable codes, laws, or principles of electrical installation; and
(ii) are constructed to determine the fitness of the applicant for a [State] license.

(3) The State Board may appoint a committee to develop examination questions.

(e) The form of the examination shall be objective and written.

(f) The passing score for the examination shall be 70%.

(g) Within 45 days after the examination, the State Board shall mail to each applicant notice of the applicant’s examination score.

(h) On written request to the State Board, an applicant who failed an examination may review the answers that the applicant gave and the scores for those answers, at a time and place that the State Board determines.

(i) (1) If an applicant fails to appear for a scheduled examination, the applicant may reapply for an examination.

(2) The applicant:

   (i) shall submit to the State Board an application for reexamination on the form that the State Board provides; and

   (ii) unless, for good cause, the State Board waives payment of the examination fee, shall again pay the examination fee under [§ 6–305] § 6–304 of this subtitle.

6–309.

(a) If an applicant qualifies for a [State] license under this subtitle, the State Board shall send the applicant a notice that states that:

(1) the applicant has qualified for a [State] license; and

(2) the State Board will issue a [State] license to the applicant on receipt of:

   (i) $20; and

   (ii) proof of general liability and property damage insurance as required under [§ 6–604] § 6–402 of this title.
(b) [(1) If, at the time of application, an applicant intends to assign to another person a local license that is obtained by use of a State license, the applicant shall identify on the application the person to whom the applicant is assigning the local license.

(2) On payment of the [State] license fee and receipt of the proof of insurance required under [§ 6–604] § 6–402 of this title, the State Board shall issue a [State] license to each applicant who meets the requirements of this title.

(c) The State Board shall include THE NAME OF THE LICENSEE on each [State] license that the State Board issues:

   (1) the name of the licensee; and

   (2) if the licensee assigns a local license to another person who engages in the business of providing electrical services, the name of the person.

6–310.

(a) Unless a [State] license is renewed for a 2–year term as provided in this section, the [State] license expires on the first June 30 that comes:

   (1) after the effective date of the [State] license; and

   (2) in an odd–numbered year.

(b) At least 1 month before a [State] license expires, the State Board shall mail to the [State] licensee, at the last known address of the [State] licensee:

   (1) a renewal application form; and

   (2) a notice that states:

      (i) the date on which the current [State] license expires;

      (ii) the date by which the State Board must receive the renewal application for the renewal to be issued and mailed before the [State] license expires; and

      (iii) the amount of the renewal fee.

(c) Before a [State] license expires, the [State] licensee periodically may renew it for an additional 2–year term, if the [State] licensee:

   (1) otherwise is entitled to be licensed;

   (2) pays to the State Board a renewal fee of $25;
complies with continuing education requirements established by the State Board in regulation; and

submits to the State Board a renewal application on the form that the State Board provides.

The State Board shall renew the [State] license of each [State] licensee who meets the requirements of this section.

A [State] license to provide electrical services is not transferable.

The Secretary may determine that [State] licenses issued under this subtitle shall expire on a staggered basis.

(a) The State Board shall place a [State] licensee on inactive status and issue an inactive status certificate to the [State] licensee, if the [State] licensee:

(1) submits to the State Board an application for inactive status on the form that the State Board provides;

(2) pays to the State Board any applicable inactive status application fee;

(3) except for the insurance requirements of § 6–604 § 6–402 of this title, qualifies for an active [State] license; and

(4) returns the [State] license to the State Board.

(b) The State Board shall place an applicant for an initial [State] license on inactive status and issue an inactive status certificate to the applicant, if the applicant:

(1) submits to the State Board an application for inactive status on the form that the State Board provides;

(2) pays to the State Board an inactive status application fee of an amount equal to the [State] license fee under § 6–309 of this subtitle; and

(3) except for the insurance requirements of § 6–604 § 6–402 of this title, qualifies for an active [State] license.

A licensee on inactive status may not use a State license to obtain a local license for providing electrical services as a master electrician in a local jurisdiction of the State.
(2) In a county that requires a State license, a licensee on inactive status may not provide electrical services as a master electrician.]  

[(d) (C) (1) Unless the individual applies for another 2–year term as provided in this subsection, an individual on inactive status loses that status on the first June 30 that comes:

(i) after the inactive status registration certificate is issued to the licensee; and

(ii) in an odd–numbered year.

(2) At least 1 month before the inactive status of an individual expires, the State Board shall mail to the individual, at the last known address of the individual:

(i) a renewal application form; and

(ii) a notice that states:

1. the date on which the inactive status expires;

2. the date by which the State Board must receive the renewal application for the renewal to be issued and mailed before the inactive status expires; and

3. the amount of the renewal fee.

(3) Before the inactive status expires, an individual on inactive status periodically may renew it for an additional 2–year term, if the individual:

(i) otherwise is entitled to be placed on inactive status;

(ii) except for an electrical inspector, pays to the State Board a renewal fee of $50; and

(iii) submits to the State Board a renewal application on the form that the Board provides.

(4) After an inactive status expires, the former licensee may reapply for inactive status only if the former licensee:

(i) otherwise is entitled to be placed on inactive status;

(ii) pays to the Board a reapplication fee of $100; and

(iii) reapplies to the Board for inactive status within 2 years after initial expiration of inactive status on a form that the Board provides.
(5) The State Board shall renew the inactive status of each individual or grant the reapplication for inactive status of each former licensee who meets the requirements of this subsection.

[(e) (D)] If a former licensee on inactive status who has failed to renew the inactive status within 2 years of its expiration reapply for that status, the State Board shall require the former licensee to comply with the requirements for obtaining a [State] license under §§ 6–304, 6–307, and 6–503 § 6–303 of this title as well as the requirements for inactive status under this section.

[(f) (E)] The State Board shall reactivate the [State] license of an individual who is on inactive status, if the individual:

(1) meets the renewal requirements that are in effect when the individual requests the reactivation of the [State] license;

(2) submits to the State Board an application for reactivation on the form that the State Board provides; and

(3) pays to the State Board a reactivation fee of $50.

6–312.

(a) The State Board shall reinstate the [State] license of a master electrician who is not on inactive status and who has failed to renew the [State] license for any reason, if the master electrician:

(1) applies to the State Board for reinstatement within 2 years after the [State] license expires;

(2) meets the renewal requirements of § 6–310 of this subtitle; and

(3) in addition to the renewal fee required under § 6–310 of this subtitle, pays to the State Board a reinstatement fee of:

(i) $25 for up to and including a 30–day late renewal;

(ii) $50 for up to and including a 60–day late renewal; or

(iii) $100 for a late renewal over 60 days.

(b) If a master electrician who has failed to renew the [State] license for any reason applies for reinstatement more than 2 years after the [State] license has expired, the State Board shall require the master electrician to pay a reinstatement fee of $100, and
comply with the requirements for obtaining a [State] license under §§ 6–304, 6–307, and 6–503] § 6–303 of this title.

6–313.

(a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a county or local government may employ an individual as an electrical inspector only if the individual:

(i) holds a [State] license [or local license, as applicable];

(ii) previously held, within the last 5 years, a [State] license [or local license, as applicable] that was not suspended or revoked; or

(iii) is certified by:

1. the International Code Council as a combination inspector or as an electrical inspector for residential or commercial buildings;

2. the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners; or

3. a certifying entity that is comparable to the entity listed in item 1 or 2 of this item.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply to a county or local government that uses code inspectors or combination building code inspectors to conduct trade–specific inspections on residential or commercial buildings to determine compliance with adopted electrical codes or related building codes.

(b) An individual may not have any financial interest in any electrical business while employed by the State, a county, or a local government as an electrical inspector.

(c) (1) On appointment or employment as an electrical inspector, the individual:

(i) shall place the [State] license of the individual on inactive status; and

(ii) except for the renewal fee, shall meet the inactive status requirements of § 6–311 of this subtitle.

(2) The State Board may issue an electrical inspector identification card to an electrical inspector who has placed the [State] license on inactive status.

(3) The State Board may not charge a fee to issue the identification card.
(d) The State Board may change the status of an electrical inspector to individual inactive status, if the electrical inspector:

(1) meets the inactive status requirements of § 6–311 of this subtitle; and

(2) pays an inactive status fee of $50.

(e) On termination of the appointment or employment of an individual as an electrical inspector, the State Board shall reactivate the [State] license of the individual who is on inactive status, without examination, if the individual meets the reactivation requirements for a [State] license under [§ 6–311(f)] § 6–311(E) of this subtitle, including payment of the reactivation fee.

6–314.

Within 10 days after the change, each [State] licensee shall give the State Board written notice of a change of:

(1) the name of the [State] licensee;

(2) the address of:

(i) the [State] licensee; or

(ii) the person to whom the State licensee assigns a local license; or

(3) the employment of the [State] licensee, including a change in the assignment of a local license.

6–315.

The State Board may investigate or act in a disciplinary proceeding against a licensed master electrician notwithstanding:

(1) a lapse, by operation of law, of the [State] license of the master electrician;

(2) a suspension of the [State] license of the master electrician by order of the State Board or a court; or

(3) a voluntary surrender of the [State] license of the master electrician to the State Board.

6–316.
(a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 6–317 of this subtitle, the State Board may deny a [State] license to any applicant, reprimand any [State] licensee, or suspend or revoke a [State] license if the applicant or [State] licensee:

1. fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a [State] license for the applicant, [State] licensee, or another person;
2. fraudulently or deceptively uses a [State] license;
3. transfers the authority granted by a [State] license to another person;
4. engages in an unfair or deceptive trade practice, as defined in § 13–301 of the Commercial Law Article;
5. willfully or deliberately disregards and violates a building code, electrical code, or law of the State or a local jurisdiction;
6. under the laws of the United States or of any state, is convicted of:
   (i) a felony; or
   (ii) a misdemeanor that is directly related to the fitness and qualification of the applicant or licensee to provide electrical services;
7. aids or abets a person to evade a provision of this title;
8. willfully or deliberately disregards disciplinary action taken by a local jurisdiction;
9. fails in a material respect to comply with a provision of this title;
10. fails to train and control adequately a person who, while under the supervision of the State licensee, sells or estimates electrical work;
11. [(11) fails to maintain a local license under § 6–601 of this title:] or
12. [(12)] (11) fails to maintain the general liability and property damage insurance required under [§ 6–604] § 6–402 of this title.

(b) Allowing a [State] license to be used by another person is, in a disciplinary proceeding under this section, prima facie evidence that a [State] licensee transferred the authority granted by a [State] license to another person.

6–319.

(a) The State Board may not suspend a [State] license for more than 1 year.
(b) The State Board may not revoke a [State] license for less than 1 year.

(c) If a [State] license is suspended, the State Board may allow the licensee to complete a contract to provide electrical services that is in progress and uncompleted at the time of suspension.

(d) (1) If a [State] license is revoked, the State Board may reinstate the [State] license after 1 year.

(2) A [State] license that has been revoked may be reinstated under this subsection if:

(i) the individual whose [State] license has been revoked submits a written request to the State Board;

(ii) the State Board holds a hearing on the request; and

(iii) the State Board makes a determination to reinstate the [State] license.

Within 30 days after taking action, the State Board shall give each local board or building official notice of the name of each master electrician whose [State] license has been suspended, revoked, or reinstated by the State Board.


(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 the master electrician assigns a local license 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) An applicant for a [State] license shall submit proof of the insurance required under this section to the State Board with the license application.
(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 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 6–306.1; 6–603, 6–605, and 6–606 and the subtitle “Subtitle 6. Miscellaneous Provisions”; and 6–701 and 6–702 and the subtitle “Subtitle 7. Short Title; Termination of Title”, respectively, of Article – Business Occupations and Professions of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 6–306; 6–401, 6–403, and 6–404 and the subtitle “Subtitle 4. Miscellaneous Provisions”; and 6–501 and 6–502 and the subtitle “Subtitle 5. Short Title; Termination of Title”, respectively.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Board of Master Electricians shall provide notice to each local board in the State about this Act and how it will affect electricians licensed by local boards, including information about how electricians with local licenses may obtain licenses issued by the State Board.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.