



Maryland Chapter
National Electrical Contractors Association



Phone: (410) 590-1189

1743 Dorsey Road, Suite 104-105
Hanover, MD 21076

Fax: (410) 590-1198

July 11, 2022

Dear Council President Alborno and distinguished members of the Council:

On behalf of the Maryland Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), I write today to express our strong **opposition** to Bill 12-22, Board of Electrical Examiners – Licenses – Permit Requirements.

Maryland NECA represents over 75 electrical contractors throughout the state, who in turn, employ some 12,000 electricians between IBEW Local 24, Local 26, and Local 70. Our contractors pride themselves on employing the best trained and most experienced electricians whose craftsmanship has been entrusted to build our schools, hospitals, stadiums, government buildings, and much more.

Maryland NECA **opposes** Bill 12-22 because this bill allows for a carveout of the Maryland Electricians Act (MEA) that will create a separate license for “low voltage” technicians which undermines the integrity of the bill regarding public safety. One of the main reasons that the MEA was implemented was to reaffirm the importance of having a qualified and competent electrician performing **any** electrical work. Per the MEA, a licensed electrician would have to spend three years working under a master electrician, graduate from a four-year registered apprenticeship, and pass a statewide examination in order to perform electrical work; however, if Bill 12-22 were to pass, a “low voltage” technician would not have to meet any of those requirements and could perform work on essential aspects of a building such as the fire alarm system without proving competence or qualification.

Ultimately, Bill 12-22 is a workaround by a select few so as to lower the requirements for electricians to perform what they would sell as “more safe” or “less skilled” work; however, electrical work of any voltage can be hazardous and must be performed by qualified and capable electricians. It is for these reasons that Maryland NECA **opposes** Bill 12-22 and asks that you join in opposition.

Sincerely,

William Yull
Executive Director
Maryland Chapter, NECA