

SUBJECT

Committee: T&E

Committee Review: At a future date **Staff:** Livhu Ndou, Legislative Attorney

Purpose: To receive testimony – no vote expected

Keywords: #ElectricianLicenseCategories

#LowVoltageLicense #BoardofElectricalExaminers

Bill 12-22, Electricity – Board of Electrical Examiners – Licenses – Permit Requirements

Lead Sponsor: Council President Albornoz at the request of the County Executive

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Members of the public

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

N/A

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Bill 12-22 is a rewrite of Chapter 17, Electricity.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

 This bill reflects changes made by the State assumption of the electrical licensing process in the 2021 Maryland Electricians Act.

AGENDA ITEM #4

July 12, 2022

Public Hearing

- This bill will delete several license categories for electricians.
- This bill will create a new license category, the Low Voltage Electrician License. In addition, a new permitting process is being added.
- A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for July 12, 2022.

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MEMORANDUM

July 7, 2022

TO: County Council

FROM: Livhu Ndou, Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Bill 12-22, Electricity - Board of Electrical Examiners - Licenses - Permit

Requirements

PURPOSE: Public Hearing – to receive testimony

Bill 12-22, Electricity – Board of Electrical Examiners – Licenses – Permit Requirements, sponsored by Lead Sponsor Council President Albornoz at the request of the County Executive, was introduced on June 14, 2022. A public hearing is scheduled for July 12, 2022. A Transportation and Environment Committee worksession will be scheduled at a later date. ¹

Bill 12-22:

- reflects changes made by the State assumption of the electrical licensing process;
- will delete several license categories for electricians;
- will create a new license category, the Low Voltage Electrician License and add a new permitting process.

BACKGROUND

The Maryland Electricians Act was passed in May 2021.² It went into effect in July 2021 and made many significant changes to the current licensure system for electricians at both the State and local level. The effect of this legislation is that electricians will no longer be required to carry numerous county, city, or other local licenses. Instead, much of licensure will be subsumed by the State. For example:

- 1. The State will be authorized to issue licenses for a licensed apprentice electrician and licensed journeyperson electrician, in addition to a master electrician license.
- 2. Local authority to issue license master, journeyperson, and apprentice electrician licenses has been repealed. However, local jurisdictions may still adopt requirements to issue apprentice, journeyperson, and master registrations.
- 3. Individuals will be required to hold a state apprentice, journeyperson, or master electrician license to offer, provide, or assist in providing electrical services.

¹ #ElectricianLicenseCategories #LowVoltageLicense # BoardofElectricalExaminers

² The text of the Act can be found here: <u>2021 Regular Session - Senate Bill 762 Enrolled (maryland.gov)</u>.

- 4. Electricians may obtain a licensing examination waiver if licensed by a local jurisdiction in which the individual passed a license examination.
- 5. Local jurisdictions will retain the authority to establish a local board and require permits, fees, and inspections. Local jurisdictions currently offering apprentice, journeyperson, and master licenses may elect or be required to also issue registrations for individuals and to state-licensed electricians required for the provision of electrical services within that local jurisdiction.
- 6. A licensed or registered electrician will be required to display the State license number or the local registration number on each vehicle used on the job for the provision of electrical services.
- 7. Local jurisdictions that register apprentices, journeypersons, or master electricians will be required to report to the Department of Labor on or before July 1, 2022, and each year thereafter, the number of apprentice, journeyperson, and master electricians registered and the number of journeyperson and master electrician license examinations administered.³

BILL SPECIFICS

Bill 12-22 is a rewrite of Chapter 17, Electricity, of the County Code that reflects many of the changes made by the Maryland Electricians Act. These changes include:

- The Montgomery County Board of Electrical Examiners will be eliminated since many of its previous functions will now be handled by the State.⁴
- Jurisdiction over appeals will be given to the County Board of Appeals.
- Several definitions and their corresponding provisions have been removed, since the only remaining local license will be the Low Voltage Electrician License. A definition of Low Voltage Electrician License is added, along with provisions on the licensure process for this license.
- The homeowner's license/permit was retained because a state license is required to provide service for compensation, and the homeowner's license does not fit this category.

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³ Additional information for electricians related to the Maryland Electricians Act can be found here: https://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/elec/elecnamech.shtml.

⁴ The Board's main function was administering examinations to candidates who met the minimum requirements for licensure.

Bill No. Concerning: Electricity Board Electrical Examiners - Licenses -Permit Requirements Revised: 6/2/2022 Draft No. June 14, 2022 Introduced: Expires: December 14, 2023 Enacted: [date] Executive: ____ [date signed] [date takes effect] Effective: Sunset Date: [date expires] Ch. [#] , Laws of Mont. Co. [year]

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

AN ACT to:

- (1) amend the jurisdiction of the County Board of Appeals;
- (2) conform County law to the Maryland Electricians Act of 2021;
- (3) establish and authorize the issuance of a low-voltage electrician's license;
- (4) authorize third-party plan review for photovoltaic system permitting; and
- (5) generally amend the County electricity law.

By amending

Montgomery County Code Chapter 2, Administration Section 2-112

Chapter 17, Electricity

Sections 17-1, 17-2, 17-3, 17-5, 17-6, 17-7, 17-8, 17-9, 17-10, 17-11, 17-12, 17-13, 17-14, 17-15, 17-16, 17-17, 17-18, 17-19, 17-20, 17-21, 17-22, 17-23, 17-24, 17-25, 17-26, 17-27, 17-28, 17-29, 17-30, 17-31, 17-32, 17-33, 17-35, 17-36, 17-37, and 17-38

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

- Sec. 1. Sections 2-112, 17-1, 17-2, 17-3, , 17-5, 17-6, 17-7, 17-8, 17-9, 17-10,
- 2 17-11, 17-12, 17-13, 17-14, 17-15, 17-16, 17-17, 17-18, 17-19, 17-20, 17-21, 17-22,
- 3 17-23, 17-24, 17-25, 17-26, 17-27, 17-28, 17-29, 17-30, 17-31, 17-32, 17-33, 17-35,
- 4 17-36, 17-37, and 17-38 are amended as follows:
- 5 2-112. Jurisdiction.

* * *

7 (c) The Board has the following appellate jurisdiction.

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The Board must	Those appeals involve:
hear and decide each	
appeal taken under:	
* * *	* * *
Section [17-28] <u>17-12</u>	[Electricians and electrical contractors licenses] County electricity code
* * *	* * *

9 * * *

ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

17-1. Scope and applicability of chapter.

12 (a) Except as otherwise provided, the provisions of this [chapter shall]
13 Chapter apply to all electrical equipment and the installation thereof for
14 light, heat or power within or on public or private buildings, structures or
15 premises, including yards, carnivals and parking lots and industrial
16 substations, and all electrical equipment, and the installation thereof, used
17 for power supply to radio and television transmitting and receiving
18 systems in or on such buildings, structures or premises, in the county.

- 19 (b) The provisions of this [chapter shall] <u>Chapter do</u> not apply to any electrical work or equipment installed by or for any electric company, 21 telegraph or telephone company, where such electrical work or 22 equipment is owned and maintained by such company and is an integral 23 part of the plant or service used by such company in rendering its service 24 to the public.
- 25 (c) The provisions of this [chapter shall] <u>Chapter do</u> not apply to installations 26 in mines, ships or railway cars or to vehicular equipment.
 - (d) The provisions of this [chapter shall] <u>Chapter do</u> not apply to installations or equipment employed by the United States government.
 - (e) A permit is not required for any minor repair, as defined in this Chapter.

17-2. Regulations.

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(a) The [director] <u>Director</u> may recommend [written] regulations for the administration of [the provisions of] this [chapter] <u>Chapter, including a schedule of fees,</u> and may, at [his] <u>the Director's</u> discretion, hold public hearings as part of this regulation-making process. Such regulations and amendments thereto [shall] <u>must</u> not conflict with nor waive any provisions of this [chapter] <u>Chapter</u> nor be less restrictive than its provisions and [shall] <u>must</u> be adopted [by the county executive] under [method] <u>Method</u> (2) of section 2A-15 of this Code.

The [director shall] <u>Director must</u> hold a public [hearings] <u>hearing</u>, upon adequate public notice, [with opportunity for full participation from members of the board of electrical examiners and shall obtain the recommendations of the board of electrical examiners prior to forwarding his recommendations for] <u>before proposing</u> regulations setting forth the standards and requirements for all installations of electrical equipment within the [county] <u>County</u>. Such regulations [shall] <u>must</u> be based upon a designated edition of the National Electrical Code and local amendments thereto, including but not limited to those for the installation of fire alarm systems. Such regulations and amendments [thereto shall] <u>must</u> be adopted [by the county executive] under method (2) of section 2A-15 of this Code.

17-3. Adoption of basic electrical code.

(b)

All electrical installations and equipment [shall] <u>must</u> meet the standards and requirements set forth in [accordance with procedures established in] section 17-2 of this [chapter] <u>Chapter</u>. The edition of the National Electrical Code and any local amendments thereto, which are adopted in accordance with procedures established in section 17-2 of this [chapter] <u>Chapter</u>[, shall be] <u>are known as</u> the basic electrical code for the [county] County.

17-4. Administration and enforcement of chapter.

This Chapter is administered and enforced by the Department of Permitting

Services.

17-5. Right of entry of departmental personnel.

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The [director or his authorized representative] Director, upon exhibiting proper credentials or proof of identity on request, [shall have the right to] may enter any nonresidential building, structure or premises, [except private residences,] without consent of the occupants, at any time during business or operating hours, and at such other times as may be necessary in an emergency that immediately endangers life, property or public safety, for the purpose of performing duties under this [chapter] Chapter or enforcing the provisions thereof. In the case of [multiple] multi-family dwellings, the [director or his authorized representatives shall have the right to] Director may enter without consent only those spaces to which the public is ordinarily admitted, such as hallways, basements and similar spaces; provided, however, [that such authorities] the Director may enter any private residence or dwelling for the purpose of enforcing this [chapter] Chapter with the consent of the occupant thereof, or without such consent if [they shall] the Director first [obtain] obtains a search warrant in accordance with prescribed legal procedures, or if there is a present emergency such as a fire, explosion or the like, or immediately following such emergency.

17-6. Unlawful maintenance of installations.

[In the case of any electrical installation for which] When a permit is required under this [chapter] Chapter, it [shall be] is unlawful for any person to maintain or allow to be maintained [such] an electrical installation without a permit [if it does not conform to the requirements hereof].

17-7. Notice of electrical requirements to purchasers of air conditioners and major appliances.

- (a) It [shall be] <u>is</u> unlawful for any person in the business of selling air conditioners [and/or] <u>or</u> major appliances[, as defined herein,] to sell or offer these items for sale without attaching to each item or its sealed carton when sold in this manner so as to be readily observable by all purchasers, written notice of the electrical wiring requirements of each, all in conformity with standards of this electrical code.
- (b) It [shall be] <u>is</u> unlawful for any person who engaged in such sales to fail to display at a prominent location on the premises of such sales the wiring requirement for such appliances as set forth in this chapter.

17-8. Penalty for violations of chapter; injunctive action.

[Any] A person has committed a Class A violation if the person violates [of] any [provisions] provision of this [chapter] Chapter or [regulations] any regulation promulgated hereunder [shall be punished as a Class A violation as set forth in section

1-19 of chapter 1 of the County Code]. Each day a violation continues to exist [shall constitute] constitutes a separate offense.

17-9. Emergency disconnections.

In cases of emergency where any electrical equipment, whether installed before or after the enactment of this [chapter] <u>Chapter</u>, is an immediate threat to the safety of persons or property, or where it may interfere with the fire protection service of any fire department in the [county] <u>County</u>, the [director shall have authority to] <u>Director may disconnect [cause such] the electrical equipment [to be disconnected] immediately and without notice to the owner thereof.</u>

17-10. Fees.

[Prior to the issuance of any] <u>Before the Department issues a permit or license</u> as provided for in this [chapter] <u>Chapter</u>, the applicant [therefore shall] <u>must pay to the [county] County</u> a fee in accordance with the schedule of fees established, and revised from time to time, by the [county executive] <u>County Executive</u>, in an amount not to exceed the cost of administering and enforcing [the chapter] <u>this Chapter</u>.

17-11. Definitions.

As used in this Chapter, the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

[Apprentice electrician: A person at least sixteen (16) years of age who is employed by an electrical contractor to work under the supervision of a master and/or

journeyman electrician and who has been issued an apprentice identification card by 117 118 the Department.] [Board: The term "board" shall mean the board of electrical examiners created 119 by this Chapter.] 120 121 Business license: The license granted by the County which authorizes the licensee to engage in business as an electrical contractor in the County. 122 Department [: The] means the Department of Permitting Services. 123 Director[: The] means the Director of the Department of Permitting Services, 124 or the Director's designee. 125 [Electrical contractor: A person, firm, company, corporation or partnership 126 127 principally engaged in the business of installing, repairing, maintaining, erecting and designing electrical wiring, equipment, apparatus and systems designed for using or 128 129 conducting electrical current and coming within the purview of the electrical code, to whom a valid business license has been issued.] 130 Electrical equipment[: The term "electrical equipment" shall include] includes 131 electrical conductors, raceways, wiring fittings, devices, appliances, fixtures, 132 apparatus, and any other equipment coming within the purview of the electrical code 133 134 of the County.

Electrical code[: The term "electrical code" shall include the electrical code of the County, which includes] means the designated edition of the National Electrical Code as adopted and amended [pursuant to] under this Chapter.

<u>Electrical services</u> means the definition given to "<u>provide electrical services</u>" by Section 6-101 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended. The term "electrical services" does not include low-voltage electrical services.

[Engaged in business: A person, firm, company, corporation or partnership holding itself out to the public to furnish, install, repair or maintain under verbal or written contract, electrical equipment. One so engaged shall be considered an electrical contractor requiring a business license under this Chapter. Such a contractor, if licensed as a master electrician or master electrician limited, may perform such work himself or it may be performed by one or more of his employees under such supervision as may be required by the electrical code.]

Install, repair or maintain[: The term "install, repair or maintain" shall include] includes all installations, repairs or maintenance of any or all electrical equipment or circuits, or any parts thereof, including new work, alterations, renewals or extensions coming within the purview of this Chapter and the electrical code.

Inspector[: The term "inspector" shall mean] <u>means</u> an authorized agent of the [department] <u>Department</u>.

[Journeyman electrician: A person licensed by Montgomery County as qualified to install, repair, maintain and erect electrical wiring, equipment, apparatus and systems, within the purview of the electrical code of the County, including but not limited to, electrical raceways, conductors, fixtures, signs, motors, switchgears and distribution systems, fixed electric heating systems or any other fixed or stationary electrical equipment or apparatus which conducts or consumes electricity, all such activity being performed while under the direction and supervision of a master electrician.]

[Licensee: The term "licensee" shall mean any person, firm, company, corporation or partnership to whom a license has been issued hereunder.]

Low-voltage electrical services means the installation, repair or maintenance of electrical equipment, circuits, or systems, or any parts thereof, designed to operate at or below 50 volts. Low-voltage electrical systems include fire alarm systems, cable tv systems, telephone systems, audio/video systems, computer network wiring and all other systems operating at or below 50 volts.

Major appliance[:] means [Laundry] laundry or kitchen appliances which are permanently connected or occupy fifty (50) percent or more of the circuit.

[Master electrician: A person licensed by the County as qualified to install, repair, maintain and erect electrical wiring, equipment, apparatus and systems, within the purview of the electrical code of the County, including, but not limited to, electrical

raceways, conductors, fixtures, signs, motors, switchgears and distribution systems, fixed electrical heating systems or any other fixed or stationary electrical equipment or apparatus which conducts or consumes electricity.]

[Master electrician limited: A person licensed by the County as qualified to install, repair and maintain a particular appliance, apparatus, device or fixture within the purview of the Montgomery County electrical code and limited to a branch circuit or feeder for elevators; gasoline pumps; automatic heating furnaces whose principal operation is derived from fuel oil, gas, steam, solar panels or coal; lighting fixtures; refrigeration and air conditioning equipment; illuminated signs and similar specialties; or limited to equipment for a plant, factor, apartment complex or any other public occupancy employing maintenance forces; fire alarm systems and electronic equipment; or major appliances; all employing the use of the electrical current or connections and such other classes designated in accordance with Section 17-22 of this Chapter.]

Minor repair means the repair of portable electrical equipment or lighting fixtures, the repair or replacement of receptacles, snap switches, or plugs with a rating up to 20 amperes and 120 volts, or other minor repairs at existing outlets, or the repair or replacement of motors with a rating 1/3 hp or less and 120 volts.

National Electrical Code [: The currently designed] means the edition of the National Electrical Code published by the National Fire Protection Association as [set

forth in regulations] adopted [by the County Executive and approved by the County Council pursuant to provisions of] <u>under</u> this Chapter[, including appendices there adopted by the National Fire Protection Association at annual meetings].

17-12. Appeals.

- (a) (1) Any denial, revocation, or suspension of a low-voltage electrician

 license may be appealed to the County Board of Appeals by the

 applicant not later than ten (10) days after such notice is personally

 served or received. Receipt by certified mail is presumed to be

 complete on the third day after mailing.
 - (2) Any person aggrieved by the issuance, denial, renewal, amendment, suspension, or revocation of a permit, or the issuance or revocation of a stop work order, under this Chapter may appeal to the County Board of Appeals within 30 days after the permit is issued, denied, renewed, amended, suspended, or revoked or the stop work order is issued or revoked. A person may not appeal any other order of the Department and may not appeal an amendment of a permit if the amendment does not make a material change to the original permit. A person must not contest the validity of the original permit in an appeal of an amendment or a stop work order.

214	<u>(b)</u>	After notice and hearing, the Board may affirm, remand, modify, or
215		reverse the action of the Department.
216	<u>(c)</u>	Any party may seek judicial review of a decision of the Board under
217		<u>Section</u> 2-114.
218	[ARTICLE II. BOARD OF ELECTRICAL EXAMINERS.]
219	[Sec. 17-12	. Created; composition.
220	The	County Executive must appoint, subject to confirmation by the Council, a
221	Board of El	ectrical Examiners, composed of 5 voting members, who must be residents
222	of the Coun	ty.
223	(a)	One member must hold a County master electrician's license.
224	(b)	Two members must be when appointed, or must have had previous
225		experience as, an electrical contractor, electrical contractor limited, or
226		must otherwise be technically qualified in electricity.
227	(c)	One member must represent the general public.
228	(d)	One member must be a professional engineer, licensed in Maryland and
229		experienced in electrical engineering.
230	(e)	The Executive may appoint a person who does not have any required
231		professional qualifications under subsections (a), (b), or (d), but who is
232		otherwise technically qualified to assess proficiency in electricity.

233	(f)	The Director may designate one or more Department employees as ex
234		officio, nonvoting members to promote coordination with the
235		Department's fire inspection and prevention and electrical inspection
236		activities.

(g) The Executive must designate one member of the Board as chair. If the Executive does not designate a chair, the Board must elect its own chair. The Board must select a vice- chair and any other officer it finds necessary. The vice-chair must assume the duties of the chair when the chair is absent.]

[Sec. 17-13. Appointment and terms of members.

Members of the board are appointed by the county executive, subject to the confirmation of the council, for 3-year terms, except that any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of a term is appointed for the remainder of that term.]

[Sec. 17-14. Reserved.]

[Sec. 17-15. Staff.

The county executive shall make available to the board such services and facilities of the county as are necessary or appropriate for the proper performance of its duties, and the county attorney shall serve as counsel to the board.]

[Sec. 17-16. Duties.

(a)	The board shall advise the director on the issuance of licenses for
	journeyman electricians, master electricians and master electricians
	limited and shall ascertain by appropriate examination the qualifications
	and capabilities of all persons who desire such licenses.

- (b) In the case of examinations, the board shall have the authority to consult or obtain the services of a recognized expert in the field to prepare said examinations.
- (c) The board shall advise the county executive on the adoption of proposed rules and regulations to govern the placement, installation and operation of electrical conductors, appliances, apparatus or construction upon or about buildings and structures of all types throughout the county.]

[Sec. 17-17. Reciprocity.

The board of electrical examiners shall certify to the director any applicant as qualified to be licensed, without examination by the board, if such applicant is currently licensed in another jurisdiction, which jurisdiction has examinations and qualification procedures which have been found by the board to be equivalent to those required for licensing in the county and which grants similar reciprocity to Montgomery County licensees.]

ARTICLE [III] II. LICENSES.

[17-18] <u>17-13</u>. Applicability of [article] <u>Article</u>; exceptions.

[(a)] The [licensing] requirements of this Article apply [only] to <u>all</u> electrical work covered by this Chapter, as specified in Section 17-1. [Each licensee must perform all] <u>All</u> electrical work <u>must be performed</u> as required by this Chapter and the <u>electrical</u> code and regulations adopted under it.

- [(b) Any person who installs, repairs, or maintains electrical equipment, in a detached single-family residence which that person or a member of the person's immediate family owns, for the person's or immediate family's use, [need not obtain] a required to hold an electrical license under this Article. Before any electrical work is performed under this subsection, the owner of the residence must apply to the Director for a permit if a permit is otherwise required by this Chapter.]
- [(c) Before issuing a permit under this subsection, the Director must require the person who will perform the work to show that he or she is qualified to perform the proposed electrical work in a capable manner so as not to endanger the life and property of occupants or neighbors, or property belonging to any public utility. If the Director finds that the designated person is qualified to perform the proposed electrical work, the Director must issue a permit for that work, subject to compliance with all otherwise applicable requirements of this Chapter.]
- [(d) A permit is not required for any minor repair, as defined in this Chapter.]

[17-19] <u>17-14</u>. [Business licenses.] <u>License required.</u>

- (a) [It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, company, corporation or partnership engaged in business as an electrical contractor to install, repair or maintain any electrical circuit, electrical equipment or electrical apparatus unless such person, firm, company, corporation or partnership shall have first been granted by County a business license, entitling the licensee to perform such work.] Except as provided in subsection (c), no person may engage in the business of providing electrical services for compensation in the County unless properly licensed by the State Board of Electricians.
- (b) [All installations, repairs, maintenance or other work done under a business license issued pursuant to this Chapter shall be by, or under the ultimate supervision of, the master electrician or master electrician limited regularly and principally employed by said licensee and designated on such business license as responsible for the work performed thereunder whose active status, in accordance with Section 17-25, has been certified by the Board. For the purpose of this Subsection, the words "regularly and principally employed" shall mean that the master electrician or the master electrician limited shall be available to supervise the installation whenever such work is being performed by any

electrician under his supervision for whose work he is responsible and that he is not employed by more than 3 licensees at one time. Non-availability on the job for more than a two-hour period of any master electrician, or master electrician limited, to supervise the performance of any electrical work performed under the authority of an electrical permit issued to him shall be cause for the suspension or revocation of this license.] Except as provided in subsection (c), no person may provide low-voltage electrical services in the County unless properly licensed by the State Board of Electricians or the person holds a low-voltage electrical license issued by the Director.

(c) [Nothing herein shall limit an electrical contractor from having more than one master electrician or master electrician limited in his employ.] Any person who installs, repairs, or maintains branch circuits as defined in the National Electric Code, in a detached single-family residence which that person or a member of the person's immediate family owns, for the person's or immediate family's use, is not required to hold an electrical license, provided the electrical services are not performed for compensation. Before any electrical work is performed, the owner of the residence must apply to the Director for a permit if a permit is otherwise required by this Chapter.

I(d) An applicant for a business license shall furnish, on a form approved by the Director, complete identification of the business, including principals, partners or affiliated corporations; references; criminal violations or civil judgments entered or causes of action pending against the business; name and license number of the supervising master electrician or master electrician limited and such other information as may be required as to character references and financial responsibility.]

[(e) An applicant for a business license shall furnish a certificate from an insurance company qualified to do business in the State of Maryland of public liability insurance in the amount of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) coverage for death or personal injury of one (1) or more individuals, and three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) coverage for property damage, which insurance shall provide coverage for work done under any permit issued hereunder by the County and shall include coverage for both premises operations and completed operations. Such liability insurance shall state that the coverage therein provided for shall remain in full force and effect until thirty (30) days following the date written notice of cancellation or failure to renew is given by the insurance carrier or its authorized agent to the County, and any certificate of

insurance furnished pursuant to this Section shall provide for such coverage.]

- [(f) Subject to the provisions contained in Section 17-24, each license and renewal of same shall be in force and effect only as long as the insurance certificates that have been filed with the Board, in accordance with the provisions of this Section, shall remain in full force and effect. Every such license or renewal of same shall become void and of no effect should any such insurance contract become inoperative, ineffective or canceled, regardless of the regular date of expiration of said license.]
- It shall be the joint and several responsibility of the contractor and the master electrician responsible for any electrical construction to cause at least one (1) licensed County master or journeyman electrician to be present on every job site at all times when any work is being performed. If there are one (1) or more persons on the job site performing electrical work, the contractor and/or the master electrician must provide at least one (1) licensed master or journeyman electrician on the job site for every three (3) or less unlicensed persons performing electrical work.]

[17-20] 17-15. [Electricians' licenses.] Low-voltage Electrician License.

- (a) There [shall be three (3) classes of] is a [electricians' licenses:
 - (1) Master electrician;

372		(2)	Master electrician limited; and
373		(3)	Journeyman electrician.] <u>low-voltage</u>
374		electr	ricians' license.
375	(b)	Befor	re the [department shall] <u>Director may</u> issue or renew [an] <u>a low-</u>
376		volta	ge electrician's license, [it shall] the Director must require the
377		appli	cant to:
378		(1)	[Provide it] <u>provide</u> the <u>Director</u> with such current information as
379			[it]the Director must require as to character references, experience,
380			education and training in or related to the construction,
381			maintenance, installation or repair of [all types] of <u>low-voltage</u>
382			electrical equipment and apparatus[, or in the case of an application
383			for a limited license, such information as it relates to the particular
384			type of installation applied for];
385		(2)	[As determined by the Board, pass a written or oral examination
386			conducted by the Board predicated upon the standards of the
387			Montgomery County electrical code and rules and regulations
388			adopted pursuant thereto] provide proof of eligibility for a low-
389			voltage electrician license;
390		(3)	provide a certificate from an insurance company qualified to do
391			business in the State of Maryland of public liability insurance in

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coverage for death or personal injury of one (1) or more individuals, and three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) coverage for property damage, which insurance must provide coverage for work done under any permit issued hereunder by the County and must include coverage for both premises operations and completed operations. Such liability insurance must state that the coverage therein provided will remain in full force and effect until thirty (30) days following the date written notice of cancellation or failure to renew is given by the insurance carrier or its authorized agent to the County, and any certificate of insurance furnished under this Section must provide for such coverage; and [Pay] pay to the County, at the time of filing the application, a nonrefundable fee in the amount as set forth in regulation

the amount of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00)

[If the Board requests, the Director must investigate the character, experience, training and education of an electrician's license applicant and provide the results of the investigation to the Board.] Before a lowvoltage electrician license is issued, the Director must obtain from reliable sources the applicant's record of compliance with state and

promulgated pursuant to this Chapter.

County law	s and	reco	ord of c	omplaint a	ctions with	the Office of	Consumer
Protection	and	the	State	Attorney	General's	Consumer	Protection
Division.							

- (d) [It shall be the duty of the Board to certify to the Director within sixty (60) days after the date of the applicant's examination whether the applicant is qualified for the license applied for, on the basis of said examination and the information provided it by the Director.]
- [(e) In the case of applications for renewals] When an applicant requests the renewal of an existing County low-voltage electrician's license, [it shall be the duty of] the Director [to] must withhold issuance of such license upon a finding [by the Board] that [said] the licensee has committed acts which are in violation of the provisions of this Chapter[, as set forth in Section 17-28]. A license or renewal may be withheld if the applicant [or its predecessor] is found to have committed a deceptive or unconscionable trade practice in violation of Chapter 11, Section 11-4, of the Montgomery County Code, as amended.
- [(f)] (e) All application approvals or denials [of said applications shall] must be personally served or mailed by certified mail to the address on the application. [Any denial may be appealed to the County Board of Appeals

431		by th	e applicant not later than ten (10) days after such notice is personally
432		serve	d or received.]
433	[(g)	If an	applicant for any license or examination has been employed by the
434		feder	al, state or local government in a military or nonmilitary capacity,
435		the a	applicant may submit to the Board of Electrical Examiners an
436		affida	avit from the section chief or division chief to whom the applicant
437		was c	directly responsible, specifying:
438		(1)	The section or division chief's qualifications in the field of
439			electrical construction, and any licenses he may hold pertinent
440			thereto;
441		(2)	The grade and title of the section or division chief, and the grade
442			and title of the applicant;
443		(3)	The official job description of the applicant's position(s);
444		(4)	The time in this position(s); and
445		(5)	A specific description of the type of work performed by the
446			applicant and the time periods thereof.
447		The b	poard of electrical examiners shall review the information supplied
448	by the appli	cant a	s to training and experience and shall determine its credibility and
449	may allow u	ıp to a	maximum of four (4) years' experience toward the requirements set

forth in this Chapter for the examination applied for. For the purposes of this section,

451	a "sworn st	atemei	nt" shall mean any statement which the maker thereof certifies as
452	being true to	o the b	est of his information, knowledge and belief, under the penalties of
453	perjury.]		
454	[17-21] <u>17</u>	<u>/-16</u> .]	Eligibility for [examination-Master] <u>Low-voltage</u> electrician
455	<u>license</u> .		
456	(a)	Any	person who desires to [install, repair, maintain or erect electrical
457		equip	oment as a master electrician] perform low-voltage electrical
458		<u>servi</u>	ces, as defined by the [chapter] Chapter, may at any time make
459		appli	cation to the [director to be examined and the director shall] <u>Director</u>
460		who	must provide the applicant with the prescribed forms.
461	(b)	An a	applicant for [examination for] a [master] low-voltage electrician
462		licen	se [shall] <u>must:</u>
463		<u>(1)</u>	hold a Master Electrician license issued by the State Board of
464			Electricians;
465		<u>(2)</u>	hold a current Master Electrician or Master Electrician Limited
466			license issued by the Director; or
467		<u>(3)</u>	have been regularly and principally employed or engaged in
468			performing low-voltage electrical [construction, maintenance,
469			installation and repair of all types of electrical equipment and
470			apparatus, all coming within the purview of and subject to all

provisions of services, as defined by this [chapter] Chapter, for a period of not less than [eight (8)] four (4) years preceding the date of [his] the application, under the directions and supervision of a master electrician, and pass the current version of the International Code Council's low-voltage electrician Exam G21 with a grade constituting at least seventy (70) percent of the total possible point credits in the examination. [The board may credit maximum of four (4) years of formal course study or training in electrical installation completed at a trade school or other educational institution which in the opinion of the board provided comparable experience and training otherwise attainable under the supervision of a master electrician or while employed by a government agency.]

[Sec. 17-22. Same-Master electrician limited.

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- (a) Any person who desires to install, repair, maintain or erect electrical equipment as a master electrician limited, as defined in this chapter, may at any time make application to the director to be examined and the director shall provide the applicant with the prescribed forms.
- (b) An applicant may be licensed hereunder for a particular type of electrical installation or may be licensed for all types or as many types of limited electrical

installations as defined herein and for which he shall be found qualified by the board. He shall have been regularly and principally employed for four (4) years preceding application in the area of limitation, under the direction of a master electrician, or master electrician limited, where the limitation is in the same area as requested. The type of limited licenses shall be set forth in regulations adopted under method (3) of section 2A-15 of this Code by the county executive upon recommendation of the board. Particular license classifications shall include, without limiting, licenses for electrical connections and circuits to air conditioning, elevators, gasoline pumps, automatic heating furnaces whose principal operation is derived from fuel oil, gas, steam, solar panels, or coal, lighting, illuminated signs, and similar specialties, and electrical repair and maintenance work, in plants, factories, apartment complexes and any public occupancy employing maintenance forces, fire alarm systems and electronic equipment, or major appliances, all employing the use of electrical current or connections. The conditions of the license shall appear plainly on the license.

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(c) Those persons who are employed by a plant, factory, apartment, condominium, office building or other facility employing maintenance personnel are encouraged to obtain a master electrician's limited license for maintenance in order to be able to obtain permits for electrical maintenance work. In addition to the requirements in section 17-22(a) and (b), the owner or agent for the building or

buildings must certify that the applicant is a full-time employee and is covered by liability insurance in the amount established by section 17-19(c).]

[Sec. 17-23. Same-Journeyman electrician.

- (a) Any person who desires to install, repair, maintain or erect electrical equipment as a journeyman electrician, as defined by this chapter, may at any time make application to the director to be examined; and the director shall provide the applicant with the prescribed forms.
- (b) An applicant for examination for a journeyman electrician license shall have been regularly and principally employed or engaged in electrical construction, maintenance, installation and repair of all types of electrical equipment and apparatus, all coming

within the purview of and subject to all provisions of this chapter, for a period of not less than four (4) years preceding the date of his application, under the supervision of a master electrician.]

[Sec. 17-24. Examinations.

(a) The written and/or oral examination conducted by the board for either the master electricians', master electricians' limited, or journeyman electricians' license shall be based upon standards of the county electrical code.

528 (b) In order to qualify as having passed said examination, the applicant shall 529 receive a grade constituting at least seventy (70) percent of the total possible point 530 credits in the examination.

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- (c) The use of any unauthorized material or other misbehavior by an applicant during his examination shall cause the immediate rejection of his application and bar him from reexamination for six (6) months.
- (d) Examination periods shall be held at least six (6) times each year at intervals of not greater than two (2) months. Written notice of the date, hour and place of examination shall be mailed to each eligible applicant at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the examination.
- (e) Any applicant who fails to pass any examination or re-examination may take a re-examination. The applicant must apply to the director for re-examination and pay a fee determined by Executive regulation.
- (f) All written examinations and applicant records pertaining thereto shall be stored under secured conditions within the department and shall be available for inspection upon request made to the board by an applicant for a period of six (6) months after the date of the examination.]

[17-25] 17-17. Term of [licenses] low-voltage electrician license; renewal.

(a) [All licenses issued under this Chapter after the effective date of this legislation shall be] A low-voltage electrician license is valid for two (2)

years from the date of issuance and may be renewed upon application to the Director. Applicants for licenses and renewals [thereof shall pay to the County a fee for a business license, master electrician's license, master electrician's limited license and journeyman electrician's license] must pay a fee as provided for by regulations adopted under method (3) of Section 2A-15 of this Code by the County Executive.

- (b) [No person, firm, company, corporation, partnership, owner, lessee or agent shall be denied the privilege of continuing a contracting business or maintenance or repair work in the event of death, illness or other physical disability of the master electrician or master electrician limited who qualified the person, firm, company, corporation or partnership for such license, for a period not exceeding one hundred twenty (120) days following the date of such death, illness or physical disability, provided said business, maintenance or repair work is conducted under such qualified supervision as the board deems adequate; and provided that all requirements concerning bonds and business insurance are first complied with and the department is notified promptly by the licensee upon such death, illness or physical disability.]
- [(c) A person, firm, company, corporation or partnership shall be allowed to continue a business or to perform maintenance and repair work for a

period not exceeding ninety (90) days should the master electrician or master electrician limited who qualified the person, firm, company, corporation or partnership for such license terminate his services therefrom, provided such business, maintenance or repair work is conducted under such qualified supervision as the Board deems adequate and provided that both of the following requirements are met:

(1) Insurance requirements are complied with;

- (2) The master electrician or master electrician limited who qualified the person, firm, company, corporation or partnership shall notify the Board in writing within five (5) days after terminating his services therewith; and the person, firm, company, corporation or partnership also shall notify the Board in writing within five (5) days after the master electrician or master electrician limited has terminated his services.]
- [(d) No] A license issued under this Chapter [shall] may not be assigned or transferred.
- [(e)] (c) [No] A license [shall] must not be renewed [for any person, firm, company, corporation or partnership] until all of the requirements of this Chapter have been complied with.

[(f)	Subject to provisions in Section 17-28 of this Chapter, the Department
	may renew licenses under this Chapter to any applicant who at the
	effective date of this Chapter held an existing County electrical
	contractor's license or electrical contractor's limited license.]

[(g)] (d) Late renewals for [all classes of] a low-voltage electrical [licenses] license must be accepted without late filing fee for 10 days after the expiration date. If the County receives an application for renewal within 6 months after a license expires, the license [must] may be renewed upon payment of a late filing fee [set by the Director of Permitting Services]. A renewal application received more than 6 months after an expiration date must not be accepted.

[17-26] <u>17-18</u>. Display; duplicates.

- (a) All holders of licenses issued by the State Board of Electricians and under this [chapter] Chapter [shall] must display the license in a prominent place at their business location and upon demand [shall] must give the number of the license to any [inspector of the department] Inspector.
- (b) [All holders of master electrician, master electrician limited and journeyman electrician licenses shall have identification cards issued by the department in their possession at all times while performing electrical

work within the county and shall display same, upon request, to authorized department personnel.]

[(c)] If a <u>low-voltage electrician</u> license <u>issued under this Chapter</u> is lost, defaced or destroyed, a licensee in good standing may obtain a duplicate upon filing an application to the [director] <u>Director</u> and payment of the cost of replacement.

[Sec. 17-27. Apprentice identification card.

- (a) Any person who desires to be registered with the county as being engaged in a program of apprenticeship in connection with his employment with a licensed electrical contractor, as defined by this chapter, may at any time make application to the director on forms provided by the department.
- (b) The department, upon payment of a nonrefundable fee as set forth in regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter, shall issue to the applicant an apprentice identification card, renewable annually, and shall require that records be kept regarding the nature of the electrical work being performed by the apprentice electrician.]

[17-28] <u>17-19</u>. Revocation or suspension of <u>low-voltage electrician</u> [licenses; appeals] <u>license</u>.

The [director] Director may suspend, revoke or refuse to renew [any] a low-voltage electrician license if the holder has secured such license by misrepresentation; has failed to correct violations of any provisions of the electrical code and laws of the county or State of Maryland; failed to maintain the qualifications required by this subtitle; demonstrated a lack of competence inconsistent with retention of the license; engaged in fraudulent business activities or in misleadingly advertising products or services; has been found to have committed as deceptive or unconscionable trade practice in violation of chapter 11, section 11-4, of the Montgomery County Code, as amended; violated the provisions of this chapter requiring permits; committed an act of gross negligence or condoned such an act by an employee; or permitted any unlicensed or unauthorized person, firm, company, corporation or partnership to obtain a [certificate card or] permit or perform low-voltage electrical [work] services under the authority of [his] the holder's license[; or if where applicable, the holder of a business license failed to notify any person employed by said licensee for more than one (1) week of his right to secure an apprentice identification card pursuant to provisions set forth in section 17-27; or if the holder of a master electrician or master electrician limited license has failed to be available to supervise electrical work in accordance with section 17-19(b) of this chapter. In the case of electricians' licenses, the director shall obtain the concurrence of the board before proceeding with such

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actions. In the case of business licenses, the director shall consider the advice and recommendations of the board, if any].

- [(b) Before recommending the revocation or suspension of an existing electrician's license or the disapproval of any application to renew such license, the board shall afford the licensee an opportunity for a hearing before the board to show cause why the license should not be suspended or revoked or renewal denied. The board shall give at least ten (10) days' written notice to the licensee by certified mail or personal service at the last address on file with the director and such notice shall state the complaint and alleged violation.]
- [(c) The board may require at any time that a master electrician, master electrician limited or journeyman electrician be reexamined for good cause and if such licensee fails to pass the reexamination, his license or licenses may be revoked. A person whose electrician's license has been revoked in this manner shall become eligible after ninety (90) days has elapsed from the date of revocation to apply for a new license. Such application shall be considered a new application and shall be submitted pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.]
- [(d) Any person, firm, company, corporation or partnership to whom a license has been denied or whose license has been revoked or suspended or any such person, firm, company, corporation or partnership who believes himself aggrieved by any action of the board or director may appeal to the county board of appeals by filing a

notice of such appeal to the county board of appeals by filing a notice of such appeal with the clerk of the appeals board within ten (10) days from the date of receipt of notice of the action of the board or director. Notice of action of the board or director shall_be personally served or be mailed by certified mail to the last address on file with the board.]

ARTICLE [IV] III. PERMITS.

[17-29] <u>17-20</u>. General requirements.

- (a) Required. Except as provided in section 17-1 of this [chapter] Chapter, no electrical equipment which is subject to the provisions of this [chapter] Chapter [shall] may be installed, repaired or maintained until a permit therefor has been issued by the [department] Department.
- (b) Application generally. Except as provided in subsection (c), [All] all applications for permits [shall] must be in writing and in such form as may be prescribed by the [department] Department. All applications [shall] must be signed by a master electrician licensed by the State Board of Electricians or [master] a low-voltage electrician [limited] licensed under this Chapter, except those signed by homeowners [pursuant to] under section 17-13(c) [and those signed by an officer of the company pursuant to section 17-25(b) and (c)]. Each application [shall] must be describe the work to be done and the location thereof and [shall] must be

accompanied by such plans, specifications and schedules as [shall] <u>may</u> be necessary to determine whether the installation [will be in conformity] <u>conforms</u> with the provisions of this [chapter] <u>Chapter</u> and, if necessary, the provisions of [chapter] Chapter 8 of this Code.

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Application for installation of photovoltaic systems. The Director may (c) accept reports and recommendations from qualified and approved photovoltaic system plan review service providers that have demonstrated that the photovoltaic system plans reviewed reliably conform to all requirements of this Chapter. Under this subsection, photovoltaic system includes or incorporates one or more of the following: photovoltaic panels, energy storage, or residential electric vehicle charging systems, and any of their related systems or components. (d) Action on application. The Director must examine or cause to be examined each application, or report and recommendation, for an electrical permit or an amendment to a permit within a reasonable time after the application is filed. If the application or the plans do not conform to all requirements of this Chapter, the Director must reject the application in writing and specify the reasons for rejecting it. If the proposed work conforms to all requirements of this Chapter and all other

applicable laws and regulations, the Director must issue a permit for the

work as soon as practicable. Before issuing a permit, the person who will perform the work must demonstrate that he or she is qualified to perform the proposed electrical work in a capable manner so as not to endanger the life and property of occupants or neighbors, or property belonging to any public utility.

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[(c)](e)Contents; conformity with permits; conditions; expiration upon noncommencement of work, etc. Each permit [shall] must describe with particularity the installation to be done thereunder, and no person [shall] may install any electrical equipment other than in accordance with the permit. The permit is a license to proceed with the work and may not be construed as authority to violate, cancel or set aside any of the provisions of this Chapter. Each permittee must perform all electrical services and low-voltage electrical services as required by this Chapter and the electrical code and regulations adopted under it. The issuance of a permit does not prevent the Department from thereafter requiring a correction of errors in plans or in installation or of violations of this Chapter and all other applicable laws or ordinances specifically referring thereto. The issuance of any permit is expressly conditioned upon the applicant's prompt compliance with all stop work orders issued by the Director. All permits [shall] expire and [be] are null and void unless the work

authorized thereunder is commenced within [six (6) months] 180 days from the date of issuance or after commencement of work if more than 180 days pass between inspections; provided, that the [department] Department may upon good cause shown extend a permit one or more times [from] for a [periods] period not [exceeding] to exceed sixty (60) days.

- [(d)](f)Repairs exempted. No permit shall be required to repair portable electrical equipment or lighting fixtures, or to repair or replace sockets, receptacles or snap switches, or to make other minor repairs at existing outlets, or to repair motors, or to replace motors with motors of the same nameplate rating.
- [(e)](g)Supervision. It shall be unlawful for any licensee to allow the installation, repair or maintenance of any electrical equipment requiring a permit from the department unless under the immediate and personal supervision of either a licensed master or journeyman.

[17-30] <u>17-21</u>. Emergency work.

When necessary to make emergency repairs or replacements to electrical installations, or to make branch circuit extensions for switches, receptacles or the like, incidental to such emergency work, such work may be done without a permit; provided, that the person doing the same [shall] must possess all licenses required

under Article III of this Chapter and first inform the [department] Department either orally or in writing if the [department's] Department's office is open at the time of such emergency giving [his] the person's name and address and the address where the work is to be done, the nature thereof and when it is to be started. Such person shall file an application for a permit covering such emergency work on the first business day following the performance thereof.

[17-31] 17-22. Temporary installations.

A temporary permit [shall be] <u>is</u> required in connection with electrical equipment installed for a temporary use for a period not to exceed [six (6) months] <u>180</u> <u>days</u>. Such permit may be extended for an additional period of [six (6) months] <u>180</u> <u>days</u> by the [department] <u>Department</u>.

17-23. Stop work order.

<u>Director determines that electrical services or low-voltage electrical services are being prosecuted in violation of the provisions of this Chapter, including those conditions upon which the permit has been issued or in a manner which threatens the safety, health and welfare of the public, the Director may order the work to be immediately stopped.</u>

762	<u>(b)</u>	The stop work order described herein must be in writing and served upon
763		the owner of the property involved or the owner's agent or to the person
764		doing the work.

(c) It is unlawful for any person to continue or permit the continuance of work after having been served with a stop work order, except such work as the person is directed to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition.

17-24. Revocation of permit.

The Director may revoke a permit or approval issued under this Chapter in case of any false statement or misrepresentation of fact in the application or on the plans on which the permit or approval was based or in case of any violation of the conditions upon which such permit was issued.

ARTICLE [V] IV. INSPECTIONS.

[17-32] 17-25. Notice upon completion; inspection of installations generally.

It [shall be] <u>is</u> unlawful for the holder of a permit issued hereunder to fail to notify the [department] <u>Department</u> within five (5) days of the completion of an installation regulated by this [chapter] <u>Chapter</u>. The [department] <u>Department</u> [shall cause] <u>must inspect</u> the installation [to be inspected] within forty-eight (48) hours of such notice, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

[17-33] <u>17-26</u>. Inspection of covered installations.

- (a) When any part of an installation regulated by this [chapter] <u>Chapter</u> is to be hidden from view by the permanent placement of part of a building, the holder of the permit [shall] <u>must</u> notify the [department] <u>Department</u> and such installation [shall] <u>must</u> not be concealed until it has been inspected and approved by the [department] <u>Department</u>; provided, that on large installations where the concealment of electrical equipment proceeds continuously, the holder of the permit shall give the [department] <u>Department</u> notice thereof so that inspections may be made periodically during the progress of the work.
- (b) The [department] <u>Department</u> [shall have the authority to] <u>may</u> remove or require the removal of any structure or materials that prevent proper inspection of any electrical equipment.

[Sec. 17-34.]

[17-35] <u>17-27</u>. Authorization to supply power.

(a) No electric light or power company [shall] <u>may</u> supply electricity or power to any electrical equipment, for the installation of which a permit is required under this [chapter] <u>Chapter</u>, and no person shall connect any such electrical equipment to a supply of electricity or power, except where authorized by the [department] <u>Department</u>.

- (b) If after the inspection the [department] <u>Department</u> finds the installation to be in conformity with the provisions of this [chapter] <u>Chapter</u>, it [shall] <u>must</u> approve the installation and authorize the use of the installation and connection to the supply of electricity and power, and [shall] <u>must</u> give notification to the electric light or power company supplying the same. Such notification may be issued for an entire installation or part thereof.
 - (c) Authorization may be issued for temporary installations authorized [pursuant to] <u>under section [17-30] 17-21</u> of this [chapter] <u>Chapter</u>. Temporary installations may be canceled by the [director] <u>Director</u> at any time if the installation is not maintained as required by this [chapter] <u>Chapter</u>.

[17-36] <u>17-28</u>. Defective installations and equipment.

(a) If upon inspection any installation for which a permit is required under this [chapter] Chapter is found to be in violation of the provisions of this [chapter] Chapter, the [department] Department [shall] must notify the holder of the permit of the nature of such violation in writing and the same [shall] must be corrected within ten (10) days after such notice or such other period of time as may be specified by the [department] Department.
(b) If the [director] Director finds that any electrical equipment installed

before or after the enactment of this [chapter] Chapter is dangerous to

persons or property because defective or improperly used or installed, [he] the Director [shall] must notify the owner or lessee of the property in writing, setting forth the nature of such dangerous condition; and such person [shall] must make such changes or repairs as are necessary to put such equipment in a safe condition within such period as may be specified by the [director] Director.

- (c) Upon failure of any person to comply with a notice issued pursuant to this section, the [director] <u>Director</u> [shall] <u>must</u> revoke any permit which has been issued for the installation of such equipment, [shall] <u>must</u> not authorize the electrical light or power company to supply electricity, or [shall] <u>must</u> revoke any such authorization which previously has been issued.
- (d) If the equipment or installation is connected to a supply of electricity or power, the [director] <u>Director</u> [shall] <u>must</u> have the authority to disconnect the same and [shall] <u>must</u> send notice to the electric light or power companies to discontinue its supply or electricity or power to such equipment or installation, and such supply of electricity or power [shall] <u>must</u> be terminated within twenty-four (24) hours of the receipt of such notice, without liability therefor on the part of such electric light or power company.

ARTICLE [VI] <u>V</u>. STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE AND BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS.*

[17-37] <u>17-29</u>. General Requirements.

- (a) It [shall be] <u>is</u> the duty of the owner, agent, lessee, occupant, or any other person entitled to the beneficial use, rental or control of any building which is required under this Code to have a fire alarm system to provide, install and maintain therein a fire alarm system with sufficient alarm bells, striking stations or automatic detectors, of such type and character as contained in regulations adopted by the [county executive] <u>County</u> Executive under method (2) of section [2-15] 2A-15 of this Code.
- (b) All apparatus, materials, equipment and systems used in connection with an alarm system, except the wiring thereof, to be installed under the provisions of these regulations [shall] <u>must</u> be designed and of a type suitable for the voltage and current available and be specifically approved for the purpose by the [department] <u>Department</u> before installation. They [shall] <u>must</u> be tested and listed by the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., for fire alarm services before submission to the [department] <u>Department</u>.
- (c) It [shall be] <u>is</u> the duty of the owner, agent, lessee, occupant or any other person entitled to the beneficial use, rental or control of any building who desires a burglar alarm system to install and maintain such a system in

accordance with provisions of the National Electrical Code as adopted by section 17-3 of this [chapter] Chapter.

ARTICLE [VII] <u>VI</u>. STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS.

[17-38] <u>17-30</u>. Standards.

- (a) A person must not sell or install electrical equipment which does not contain the certification of an inspection authority approved by the Department.
- (b) The standards and requirements of this [chapter] <u>Chapter</u> [shall] <u>must</u> be based upon the currently designated edition of the National Electrical Code and amendments thereto as specified in regulations adopted by the [county executive] <u>County Executive</u> under method (2) of section 2A-15 of this Code and are hereby declared to be minimum standards and requirements. Any electrical equipment or installation which is equal or superior to such standards and requirements [shall] <u>must</u> be deemed to be in compliance therewith.
 - (c) Except as otherwise provided in this [chapter] <u>Chapter</u>, conformity of installations of electrical equipment with such regulations adopted pursuant to section 17-2(b) [shall be] <u>is</u> prima facie evidence that such installations are reasonably safe to persons and property.

883	(d)	A person must not occupy or offer to sell for occupancy any mobile home,
884		prefabricated or modular dwelling, industrialized building, or similar
885		structure as defined in the National Electrical Code, without having first
886		obtained from the manufacturer a certification by the State of Maryland
887		that the structure [has met] meets the standards contained in regulations
888		adopted under Sections 12-301 through 12-313 of the Public Safety
889		Article of the Maryland Code.

(e) All electrical installations, including outlets, panel boxes, heat panels and fixtures subject to damage from flooding must be located, built, and floodproofed to eliminate or minimize flood damage.

Sec. 17-39. Reserved.

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LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

BILL: XX-XX Electricity Law-Chapter 17

DESCRIPTION: This new rewrite of Chapter 17 captures the significant changes brought

about by the recent State assumption of the electrical licensing process. The Department of Permitting Services has added a new stand-along license for low voltage contractors which was not included in the new State regulations, creating a vacuum in Montgomery County low voltage industry. Effectively this rewrite of Chapter 17 deletes three license categories of master, master limited and journeyman and creates the new low voltage license category.

PROBLEM: The state does not provide licensing for low voltage contractors. This creates

a situation where low voltage contractors in Montgomery County suddenly

find themselves operating without a license.

GOALS AND
1. To allow all state licensed electrical contractors to apply for electrical permits without any addition licensing requirements.

2. To dissolve the Montgomery County Board of Electrical Examiners and

allow state control of examinations.

3. To create a Montgomery County low voltage license obtainable by an

International Code Council (ICC) examination.

COORDINATION: The Office of the County Executive.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

ECONOMIC: N/A

IMPACT

EVALUATION: N/A

EXPERIENCE: In the State of Virginia electrical licenses are controlled and issued by the

state.

ELSEWHERE

SOURCE OF: DPS

INFORMATION

APPLICATION: N/A

WITHIN

MUNICIPALITIES

PENALTIES: N/A



OFFICES OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

February 25, 2022

TO: Gabe Albornoz, President

Montgomery County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive Man Electrical Security Executive

SUBJECT: Chapter 17 – Electricity

This rewrite of Chapter 17 captures the significant changes brought about by the recent State assumption of the electrical licensing process. Effectively this rewrite of Chapter 17 deletes three current electrician license categories of electricians (master, master limited, and journeyman) and creates new low voltage license category. The Department of Permitting Services has added this new stand-alone license for low voltage contractors as it was not included in the new State regulations.

These proposed regulations also eliminate the Montgomery County Board of Electrical Examiners, as its previous functions have been assumed by the state. The main function of the board was to administer examinations to candidates who met the minimum requirements for licensure. The only remaining local license will be the Low Voltage Electrician License and its exam will be administered by ICC (International Code Council); a code administration organization recognized by many jurisdictions across the United States including Montgomery County. Other updates have been made to reflect current practices. The apprentice permit is deleted as it has not been used for many years. A new permitting process is added as a result of the new licensing process. The homeowner's license/permit was retained. By strict definition, a state license is required to provide service for compensation, and the homeowner's license does not fit this category.

Fiscal Impact Statement Bill 12-22, Electricity – Board of Electrical Examiners – Licenses – Permit Requirements

1. Legislative Summary.

Bill 12-22 conforms the County Code with the changes brought about by the recent State assumption of the electrical licensing process. The Bill deletes from the County Code three license categories for master, master-limited, and journeyman electricians. Furthermore, it creates a new low-voltage electrician license for low-voltage contractors which was not included in the new State regulations.

2. An estimate of changes in County revenues and expenditures regardless of whether the revenues or expenditures are assumed in the recommended or approved budget. Includes source of information, assumptions, and methodologies used.

Based on historical revenue averages from this source, it is estimated that there could be a net loss of approximately \$200,000 a year, even with some new revenue generated from the new low-voltage license. This estimated net revenue loss is 0.54 percent of DPS' FY22 Approved Revenue Budget of \$36.9 million.

3. Revenue and expenditure estimates covering at least the next 6 fiscal years.

	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	6-Year Total
Revenue Loss	\$ (200,000)	\$(200,000)	\$(200,000)	\$(200,000)	\$(200,000)	\$(200,000)	\$(1,200,000)

4. An actuarial analysis through the entire amortization period for each bill that would affect retiree pension or group insurance costs.

The Bill is not expected to impact retiree pension or group insurance costs.

5. An estimate of expenditures related to County's information technology (IT) systems, including Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems.

The Bill is not expected to increase County IT or ERP expenditures.

6. Later actions that may affect future revenue and expenditures if the bill authorizes future spending.

The Bill does not authorize future spending.

7. An estimate of the staff time needed to implement the bill.

Implementation of the Bill is not expected to materially impact staff time or resources, since a DPS position is not exclusively dedicated to issuing electrician licenses. Rather, this workload has been shared amongst several DPS staff. Removal of the license workload will allow these staff members to focus on filling other workload gaps and expediting the review of other DPS issued licenses and permits. DPS staff will continue to verify State issued electrician licenses as part of their plan review and permit issuing process.

8.	An explanation of how the addition of new staff responsibilities would affect other
	duties.

See answer to Question 7.

9. An estimate of costs when an additional appropriation is needed.

Not applicable.

10. A description of any variable that could affect revenue and cost estimates.

Estimated revenue losses are based on historical trends and projections of low voltage licenses to be issued. There are not any expected variables that would cause these estimates to significantly increase or decrease.

11. Ranges of revenue or expenditures that are uncertain or difficult to project.

Not applicable.

12. If a bill is likely to have no fiscal impact, why that is the case.

Not applicable.

13. Other fiscal impacts or comments.

Not applicable.

- 14. The following contributed to and concurred with this analysis:
 - Ehsan Motazedi, Department of Permitting Services
 - Rick Merck, Department of Permitting Services
 - Simin Rasolee, Department of Permitting Services
 - Rafael Pumarejo Murphy, Office of Management and Budget

Joshua Watters for JRB

Jennifer R. Bryant, Director

Office of Management and Budget

Date

Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

BILL 12-22: ELECTRICITY — BOARD OF ELECTRICAL EXAMINERS — LICENSES — PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that Bill 12-22 will have a little to no impact on racial equity and social justice (RESJ) in the County, as it does not make any fundamental changes that will affect the composition of electricians in the County.

PURPOSE OF RESJ IMPACT STATEMENT

The purpose of racial equity and social justice (RESJ) impact statements is to evaluate the anticipated impact of legislation on racial equity and social justice in the County. Racial equity and social justice refer to a **process** that focuses on centering the needs, leadership, and power of communities of color and low-income communities with a **goal** of eliminating racial and social inequities.¹ Achieving racial equity and social justice usually requires seeing, thinking, and working differently to address the racial and social harms that have caused racial and social inequities.²

PURPOSE OF BILL 12-22

As described by the Occupational Outlook Handbook, "electricians install, maintain, and repair electrical power, communications, lighting, and control systems." Electricians are among the construction skilled trades, along with occupations such as plumbers, carpenters, and bricklayers. Typically, electricians have at least a high school diploma or equivalent, and licensure can be obtained for the profession through apprenticeship or attending a technical school. In 2021, electricians earned a median pay of \$60,040 annually, higher than the median pay of \$45,760 for all workers.

The purpose of Bill 12-22 is to rewrite 'Chapter 17 – Electricity' of the County Code to conform with changes in State law to the licensing process for electricians. The Maryland Electricians Act, enacted in July 2021, authorized the State to issue licenses for apprentice electrician, journeyperson electrician, and master electrician. Among several changes, the Bill if enacted achieves the following:⁷

- Removes licensing categories that have been assumed by the state, effectively allowing the County to recognize state-licensed electricians in the permitting process without any additional licensing requirements.
- Creates a new Low Voltage Electrician License category in the County, which is not provided by the state.
- Eliminates the Montgomery County Board of Electrical Examiners since its primary function of administering licensure examinations has now been assumed by the state. Examinations for the Low Voltage Electrician License will be administered by the International Code Council (ICC).
- Allows for a third-party to review permit applications for simple residential rooftop solar projects to streamline the permitting process.

Bill 12-22 was introduced to the Council on June 14, 2022.

July 1, 2022

RESJ Impact Statement

Bill 12-22

SKILLED TRADES AND RACIAL EQUITY

Careers in skilled trades such as electricians can offer a pathway to financial security that does not require obtaining a college degree. However, a history of racism in apprenticeships established racial disparities that are present in skilled trade employment to this day. As described by Jobs for the Future (JFF):⁸

"The [National Apprenticeship Act of 1937] was created to provide protections for apprentices, and it established the labor standards, national certification standards, and safeguards for apprentices' welfare that a work-based learning program must adopt in order to be considered a Registered Apprenticeship. However, Black workers were still subject to racist and exclusionary policies, such as Jim Crow laws, upheld by states and cities, employers, and labor unions, reflecting the racist views of the times. As a result, they were still significantly underrepresented in most apprenticeships after the Apprenticeship Act was passed. When a Black worker was admitted into an apprenticeship, it was most commonly for a low-wage, less-skilled position."

Research suggests that Black workers are still generally underrepresented in skilled trades,⁹ a pattern that is evident in electrician occupations. Nationally, while 12.3 percent of the employed are Black, 6.7 percent of electricians are Black.¹⁰ White people are overrepresented as electricians (77.5 percent of employed and 88.3 percent of electricians), while Latinx people are proportionally represented as electricians (18.0 percent of employed and 22.9 percent of electricians). Local data summarized in Table 1 suggests that Latinx workers are overrepresented as electricians in the County. Conversely, Black and Asian workers are underrepresented as electricians, while White workers are proportionally represented.

Table 1: Percent of Residents 18 Years and Over and Percent of Electricians by Race and Ethnicity, Montgomery County, Maryland

Race and ethnicity ¹¹	Percent of Residents 18 Years and Over	Percent of Employees in Electrician Occupations		
Asian	16.0	5.7		
Black	18.1	9.8		
White	45.6	46.7		
Latinx	18.6	54.9		

Source: 2020 Decennial Census (Table P3, P4), OLO Analysis of 2020 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), Census Bureau.

Of note, skilled trades are also marked by a significant gender disparity. Nationally, women are 80% less likely to work a craft job than men.¹² A study examining the experiences of Black tradeswomen noted patterns of racial and gender microaggressions experienced throughout their careers.¹³ A 2021 report from the PBS NewsHour highlights the continuing discrimination experienced by Black Americans and women in skilled trades.¹⁴

RESJ Impact Statement

Bill 12-22

ANTICIPATED RESJ IMPACTS

Bill 12-22 primarily codifies changes made to the electrician licensing process at the state-level. One of the primary implications of the Bill is that it will eliminate the requirement for state-licensed electricians to reciprocate their license with the County, a practice that has been in place since state law became effective in July 2021. While the changes will generally make it easier for electricians to operate in the County, the Bill does not make any fundamental changes to electrician training or licensing, factors that would potentially have RESJ implications for the people currently employed as electricians or those potentially entering the profession. Additionally, while the Bill adds a new licensing category for Low Voltage Electrician, it is not clear that this addition will have any meaningful impact on the composition of electricians in the County. Thus, OLO anticipates that Bill 12-22 will have a little to no impact on RESJ in the County.

RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS

The RESJ Act requires OLO to consider whether recommended amendments to bills aimed at narrowing racial and social inequities are warranted in developing RESJ impact statements.¹⁵ OLO does not offer recommended amendments for this Bill, as its limited scope would not address racial and social inequities in the County.

CAVEATS

Two caveats to this racial equity and social justice impact statement should be noted. First, predicting the impact of legislation on racial equity and social justice is a challenging, analytical endeavor due to data limitations, uncertainty, and other factors. Second, this RESJ impact statement is intended to inform the legislative process rather than determine whether the Council should enact legislation. Thus, any conclusion made in this statement does not represent OLO's endorsement of, or objection to, the bill under consideration.

CONTRIBUTIONS

OLO staffer Janmarie Peña, Performance Management and Data Analyst, drafted this RESJ impact statement.

¹ Definition of racial equity and social justice adopted from "Applying a Racial Equity Lens into Federal Nutrition Programs" by Marlysa Gamblin, et.al. Bread for the World, and from Racial Equity Tools. https://www.racialequitytools.org/glossary ² Ibid

³ "Electricians," Occupational Outlook Handbook, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor Last Modified April 18, 2022. https://www.bls.gov/ooh/construction-and-extraction/electricians.htm

⁴ "Skilled Trades," College and Career Access Center, Accessed June 30, 2022. https://www.jcisd.org/domain/307

⁵ "Electricians," Occupational Outlook Handbook

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Bill 12-22, Electricity – Board of Electrical Examiners – Licenses – Permit Requirements, Montgomery County, Maryland, Introduced June 14, 2022. https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2022/20220614/20220614 3D.pdf

⁸ Eric M. Seleznow and Kassandra McGhee, "Together We Can Increase Black Participation in Apprenticeship," Center for Apprenticeship & Work-Based Learning, Jobs for the Future, February 25, 2021. https://www.jff.org/what-we-do/impact-stories/center-for-apprenticeship-and-work-based-learning/together-we-can-increase-black-participation-apprenticeship/

RESJ Impact Statement

Bill 12-22

https://www.umass.edu/employmentequity/who%E2%80%99s-getting-skilled-blue-collar-jobs-look-top-and-bottom-5-states

⁹ Eric Hoyt and J.D. Swerzenski, "Who's Getting the Skilled Blue Collar Jobs? A Look Into the Top and Bottom 5 States," Center for Employment Equity, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Accessed June 30, 2022.

¹⁰ "Employed Persons by Detailed Occupation, Sex, Race, and Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity," Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Last Modified January 20, 2022. https://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat11.htm

¹¹ Latinx is an ethnicity rather than a race. Therefore, Latinx people are included in multiple racial groups throughout this impact statement, unless where otherwise noted.

¹² Eric Hoyt and J.D. Swerzenski, "Who's Getting the Skilled Blue Collar Jobs? A Look Into the Top and Bottom 5 States"

¹³ Roberta Suzette Hunte, "'My Walk has Never been Average': Black Tradeswomen Negotiating Intersections of Race and Gender in Long-Term Careers in the U.S. Building Trades," Doctoral Thesis: Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg 2012. https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.item?id=TC-MWU-8860&op=pdf&app=Library&oclc_number=1032914121

¹⁴ "Black Americans and Women Continue to Face Discrimination in the Skilled Trades," PBS NewsHour, March 12, 2021. https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/black-americans-and-women-continue-to-face-discrimination-in-skilled-trades

¹⁵ Bill 27-19, Administration – Human Rights – Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice – Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee – Established, Montgomery County Council