**STATE BOARD OF ELECTRICIANS**

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** May 27, 2025

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**PLACE:** 100 South Charles Street, Tower 1

2nd floor, Cherry Hill Conference Room

Baltimore, MD 21201

Via Google Meet Video and Teleconference + 321-465-5183; PIN: 457 489 090#

**MEMBERS** **PRESENT:** Chet Brown, Chair, Industry Member

Walter "Dave" Irvin, Industry Member

Donald Steinman, Industry Member

Steven Petri, Industry Member

William "Eric" Smith, Industry Member

Amadou Magazi, Industry Member

**MEMBERS** **ABSENT:** Greg Kaderabek, Vice Chair, Consumer Member

John Peterson, Consumer Member

**STAFF** **PRESENT:** Sarah McDermott, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Occupational and

Professional Licensing

Charles Marquette, Executive Director

Matthew Mckinney, Director of Government Affairs

Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General

Sharon Harris-Friend, Complaints Manager

Ritchie Blymer, Investigator

Tashera Savage, Administrative Officer I

**OTHERS** **PRESENT:** Francis Harrison

Larry Touchet

**CALL TO ORDER:**

After a roll call to establish a quorum, Chairman Brown called the Business Meeting of the Maryland State Board of Electricians to Order at 10:08 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve April 22, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Irvin, seconded by Mr. Petri, and unanimously approved by the Board.

**COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Petri informed the Board that the complaint committee was unable to review all cases and would reconvene after the current board meeting. Mr. Petri reported the findings of the Complaint Committee as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Closed Complaint** | **Under Investigation** | **Sent for A.G. Pre-Charge** | **Criminally Charged** |
| 24-0039 | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| 24-0040 | Closed | Closed | Closed |
|  |  | 24-0041 |  |
|  | 25-0006 |  |  |
|  | 25-0007 |  |  |
| 25-0031 |  |  |  |

Upon a motion by Mr. Smith, and a second by Mr. Irvin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Complaint Committee report.

**APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Brown reported that the Board received 19 master applications for the examination. Out of the reviewed master applications, eight (8) were accepted, four (4) were denied, and seven (7) are pending. One (1) Journeyperson application was received, which is denied.

Upon a motion by Mr. Petri and a second by Mr. Smith, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Application Review Committee report.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDER COMMITTEE REPORT**

No continuing education report was offered.

**EXAM CHALLENGES REPORT**

No exam challenges were submitted; no report was offered.

**VOICE/DATA/VIDEO COMMITTEE REPORT**

While there are no updates or changes to be reported, Director Marquette informed the Board he would update them when information is received from Commissioner John Dove.

**REVIEW OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS AND LICENSE TOTALS**

For the month of April PSI exams submitted the following statistical summary:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Exam Type** | **Tested** | **Passed** | **Failed** | **Pass Rate %** |
| Master Electrician | 62 | 15 | 47 | 24% |
| Journeyperson Electrician | 25 | 8 | 17 | 32% |
| Total | 87 | 23 | 64 | 26% |

Ms. Savage reported that since January 2025, 326 candidates were tested, 87 passed, 239 failed, for a pass rate of 27%. Since the inception of the exam, 8,590 candidates were tested, 2,454 passed, 6,136 failed, for a pass rate of 29%.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Director Marquette revealed to the Board that the Harford County Electrical Contractors Association asked whether an apprentice completes a four-year apprenticeship can receive an extra three (3) years of work experience credit for classroom instruction. Counsel Kinstler verified that work experience cannot be dually credited and that the work experience credited across the mechanical boards for an approved apprenticeship program is based on the number of classroom hours together with the required field work of the program.

Director Marquette informed the Board that Baltimore County Electrical Board has expressed interest in initiating a discussion regarding possible legislation and the adoption of NFPA 70E. Board members expressed concern about how Baltimore County would implement this code, what Baltimore County’s intent is, and as far as safety, whether and how the Baltimore County Electrical Board would enforce the NFPA 70E. Being that NFPA 70E addresses safety matters, Board members had questions as to whether the county had trained safety personnel and if electrical inspectors are acting as safety personnel. Director Marquette did inform the Board that inspectors regularly go out to sites and may enforce NFPA 70E. He stated that he would follow up with Baltimore County to obtain responses to the board members’ questions and concerns. Chairman Brown and Mr. Petri then suggested a conversation with Mr. Steinman about NFPA 70E being included in the Continuing Education and implement a regulation to support that curriculum pertaining to NFPA 70E.

**OLD BUSINESS**

HB 1170/SB 794 – Residential Solar

Director Marquette informed the Board that conversations among agency personnel have been held to determine what a solar contractor license, required by recent legislation, will look like and how the requirements will be met. Director Marquette informed the Board that a solar contractor license will be issued under the Maryland Home Improvement Commission as an additional license. However, a licensed master electrician would be exempt from the solar contractor license requirement as it is already required by laws governing the provision of electrician services. *See, e.g.*, Md. Annotated Code, Bus. Occ. & Prof. §6-101(k). Board Chairman Brown expressed his concerns on who would be providing the installation services, and whether journey license holders would be able to work under the supervision of master electrician. Assistant Commissioner McDermott suggested a meeting with Director Marquette, Commissioner Dove, Chairman Brown, and herself to clarify the language of the bill.

Fee increase

Director Marquette informed the board that fees would increase by July 1, 2025 by 12.5%.

COMAR 09.09.02.02

Counselor Kinstler reminded the Board that it has proposed action to adopt the 2021 edition of the NEC, based on the adoption of the Code by the Division of Labor & Industry (DLI) of the Department of Labor. She advised that the Board could consider any public comments timely-submitted and consider final action if it wished to do so. Director Marquette advised that no comments had been submitted regarding proposed action on COMAR 09.09.02.02. The Board is also acquiring information on how to adopt the Code earlier than DLI so the Board can comply with Md. Annotated Code, Bus. Occ. & Prof. §6-205, requiring the Board to enforce the Code within 18 months of issuance.

Upon Mr. Smith’s motion and Mr. Irvin’s second, the Board unanimously voted to take final action to adopt the 2021 edition of the NEC.

Waste Water Presentation

Director Marquette informed the Board that he is finalizing a list of jurisdictions and will soon send the presentation to local jurisdictions. Former Board member, Mr. Harrison, thanked the director for his actions and said his farewell to the Board before being thanked for his service over the years.

Comar 09.09.03.03

Chairman Brown requested an update on the regulation, which requires the Board to issue a journeyperson license without a license examination to an applicant who has successfully completed an applicable electrician apprentice program approved by the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council or federal Office of Apprenticeship and applies within two (2) years of completing the apprenticeship program. Counsel assured the Board that she will prepare language for a regulation and circulate it to the Board members prior to the June meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Enforcement of Electrical Licenses:

Chairman Brown expressed concerns about unlicensed workers providing electrical services. Chairman Brown was recently informed that inspectors do not check whether workers are licensed electricians, as their role is only to review the services provided for code compliance. Counsel Kinstler informed the Board that, years ago, the mechanical boards met with DLI officials to seek assistance with confirming license classification and status of workers on jobsites. Counsel advised that at that time, DLI maintained stated that it was not their role to check license status during prevailing wage inspections and that their focus was solely on ratio and wage compliance for worker classifications. However, with new leadership, there may be an opportunity to revisit this matter and coordinate efforts to include license verification. Ongoing conversations with Prevailing Wage, and the apprenticeship teams are aimed at improving cooperation and enforcement. Director Marquette noted that discussions are underway to strengthen enforcement, starting with prevailing wage projects listed on the state website. While this represents only a portion of job sites, it offers a starting point. The goal is to ensure all workers providing electrical services are properly licensed. Broader enforcement remains a challenge, but it’s a key issue being discussed statewide, especially in response to concerns raised by local jurisdictions.

During the discussion of new business, the newest Board member, Amadou Magazi, joined the meeting. Mr. Magazi is a former member of the HVAC Board and is a licensed master Electrician. Mr. Magazi was welcomed by the Board and the consideration of New Business continued.

Low Voltage

The Chairman noted ongoing discussions about electrical services and the need to remove references to “low voltage” as the statue is based on the type of service provided, not the voltage level. Chairman Brown asked Counsel Kinstler whether regulations could be considered to clarify that the Board interprets the statue based on services rendered, not voltage. Counsel Kinstler confirmed that the Board could adopt a regulation clarifying that the definition of electrical services is defined as being based on the nature of the service provided not the voltage involved. Counselor Kinstler has agreed to draft language reinforcing that licensing requirements are tied to the services provided, not the voltage.

Mr. Petri moved that Counsel be asked to draft appropriate language to clarify the statutory definition of electrical services. Mr. Irvin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Marquette announced upcoming changes to the Board’s composition. Mr. Harrison has stepped down, and the Governor’s Office has selected Mr. Magazi as his replacement. Additional new members may be introduced at the next meeting, and the Director will provide updates as they are sworn in. The Board expressed appreciation for Mr. Harrison’s service and welcomed Mr. Magazi. The Director also provided an update on recent outreach efforts, including participation in a MULUC meeting and a meeting with the Baltimore County Electrical Board. Discussions focused on statewide enforcement of licensing and code compliance. A common concern is the challenge inspectors face in verifying licenses for all workers on large job sites due to limited resources. He emphasized the Board’s role in setting the tone for statewide messaging and expressed intent to take a more proactive approach in addressing enforcement and licensing awareness. Reciprocity and the adoption of the NEC code were also mentioned as ongoing topics. Director Marquette noted that the Department of Labor is beginning to consider legislation for the upcoming session. Board members were invited to submit any proposed statutory changes promptly, particularly concerning the NEC code adoption period and the current requirement for two statewide meetings annually. Internal legislative deadlines begin as early as June 2, 2025.

Mr. McKinney also expressed the need to have any concepts submitted promptly due to the close deadline.

**COUNSEL’S REPORT**

Counsel did not offer a report.

**CHAIR’S REPORT**

Chairman Brown did not offer a report but did remind the Board that, due to Mr. Harrison’s departure, the Board should conduct an election at the next Board meeting and contact list would need to be updated for all Board members.

Mr. Steinman entered the meeting during the Chairman’s announcement and informed the Board that an approved CEU provider was requesting an official welcome letter after being approved. Director Marquette informed the Board he could produce the letter for approved providers. Board members also asked Mr. Steinman if the NFPA 70E could be used for continuing education and he informed the Board that it could and certain counties already provide that curriculum.

**Public Comments**

Larry Touchet:

A member of the public expressed concern about unlicensed individuals performing electrical work, particularly in residential and commercial settings, and noted that this is contributing to safety risks, including fires. He suggested improving the clarity of license information available on the Department of Labor’s website. Specifically, a recommendation making it easier for consumers to understand the different license types—such as distinguishing license classifications and clarifying the authority and type of work each license allows. Mr. Touchet emphasized that better public awareness could help prevent unlicensed or improperly licensed individuals from misleading consumers and performing unauthorized work.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Board did not meet in closed session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Mr. Steinman, seconded by Mr. Irvin, and unanimously carried by the Board at 11:34 p.m.

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**Charles Marquette, Executive Director Date**

**Mechanical Boards**

**As voted and approved by the Board on: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**