



DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
State Board of Electricians
100 S. Charles St. Tower 1
Baltimore, MD 21201

**STATE BOARD OF ELECTRICIANS
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: October 28, 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, Vice Chair, Industry Member
Donald Steinman, Industry Member
William "Eric" Smith, VIndustry Member
Matthew Poch, Consumer Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: Greg Kaderabek, Consumer Member
John Peterson, Consumer Member
Amadou Magazi, Industry Member
Leaurdra Raye, Industry Member

STAFF PRESENT: Charles Marquette, Executive Director
Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General
William H. Gross, Administrative Officer I
Regina Cherry, Administrative Office I

OTHERS PRESENT: John Dove, Commissioner, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing
Sarah McDermott, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Occupational and
Professional Licensing
Matthew McKinney, Director of Government Affairs
Aajah Harris, Policy Director, Occupational & Professional Licensing

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 10:19 a.m. after some technical issues to allow observation of the meeting were resolved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve August 26, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Irvin, and unanimously approved by the Board.

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Smith reported the findings of the Complaint Committee as follows:

<u>Closed Complaint</u>	<u>Under Investigation</u>	<u>Sent for A.G. Pre-Charge</u>	<u>Criminally Charged</u>
24-0034			
24-0037			
25-0007			
25-0020			
26-0006			
		24-0038	
25-0013			
		25-0011	
	25-0016		
		25-0041	

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

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

APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Brown reported that the Board received 0 applications for a license examination for the month of September and 23 applications for the month of October. Out of the reviewed applications, seventeen (17) master applications were reviewed, eleven (11) were accepted, one (1) was denied, and five (5) are pending additional information. Six (6) journeyperson applications were received, two (2) were accepted, and four (4) are pending additional information.

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

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDER COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Steinman reported that IADI submitted a request to add additional classes. He reviewed the proposal and approved the request. Mr. Steinman also noted that he had been corresponding via email with the administrative officer for the Electrician Board and was unaware that the position had been vacated. He requested notification of any future staffing changes to that position, as the lack of communication caused significant delays in class approval due to correspondence not being received.

Mr. Steinman reported that he requested a resume for the instructor, the class curriculum, and CEU details from the Maryland Electrical Contractors and Electrical Inspectors Association. As of this date, no response has been received. The request remains pending, and the organization is not considered an approved CEU provider until the requested documentation is received, reviewed, and approved.

Upon a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Irvin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Continuing Education Provider Committee Report.

EXAM CHALLENGES REPORT

No exam challenges were submitted; no report was necessary.

VOICE/DATA/VIDEO COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Brown reported that there were no new updates for the Voice Data Video Committee.

REVIEW OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS AND LICENSE TOTALS

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

Exam Type	Tested	Passed	Failed	Pass Rate %
Master Electrician	36	6	30	17%
Journeyperson Electrician	13	3	10	23%
Total	49	9	40	18%

Mr. Gross reported that since January 2025, 684 candidates were tested, 182 passed, 502 failed, for a pass rate of 27%. Since the inception of the exam, 8,948 candidates were tested, 2,549 passed, 6,399 failed, for a pass rate of 28%.

CORRESPONDENCE

None to be reported.

OLD BUSINESS

Follow up NASCLA Exam for DC Reciprocity

Executive Director Marquette stated that during the August 2025 Board meeting, following the establishment of reciprocity with the District of Columbia ("D.C."), it was noted that D.C. accepts the NASCLA Electrical Examination for the NEC Code. This differs from the PSI examination currently used in Maryland. The Board raised questions regarding how NASCLA develops its examinations and the nature of the questions included.

Executive Director Marquette informed the Board that he had obtained a response from NASCLA and shared that they confirmed their examinations are developed in alignment with the National Electrical Code (NEC).

He further explained that when the reciprocity agreement with D.C. was established, there was no specific definition identifying which examination would be accepted from other jurisdictions. He noted

that Maryland currently grants reciprocity based on verification that an applicant has successfully passed an equivalent examination in another jurisdiction and holds an active license there, without distinguishing between exam providers.

Chairman Brown inquired whether the current language specifies that reciprocity is granted based on the individual possessing a license obtained through examination in the other jurisdiction. Executive Director Marquette confirmed Chairman Brown's statement.

Executive Director Marquette stated that he had reached out to NASCLA to address the Board's questions and that NASCLA provided a detailed written response. Board Counsel noted that she had received the correspondence from NASCLA and proceeded to read their response to the Board, citing what the focus of the journey and master level exams were testing on.

Mr. Steinman asked whether any Board members had direct experience with the NASCLA examination or could provide a comparison between the NASCLA and PSI exams. Chairman Brown and Counsel agreed that the correspondence from NASCLA should be re-sent to the Board for review and discussion at the November meeting and to table the issue until next. Chairman Brown affirmed that the Board would continue grant reciprocity to D.C. applicants whose D.C. license verifications indicated their license was obtained by examination.

NEW BUSINESS

Master Electrician Requirements of lower-level license.

Chairman Brown stated that this issue arose following the transition to statewide licensing. He explained that since statewide licensing was implemented, the Board has encountered challenges identifying individuals who are working in the state without being properly licensed or registered as apprentices. Chairman Brown emphasized that the Board is attempting to close this gap to ensure compliance and protect public safety.

Executive Director Marquette confirmed Chairman Brown's statement, noting that the intent is to ensure individuals obtain proper licensure in Maryland and accumulate the required work experience hours under a licensed professional.

Chairman Brown added that the Board must determine how to close this gap effectively. He explained that a regulation was previously enacted requiring individuals to hold an apprentice license to qualify for a journeyman license. However, there is no equivalent requirement mandating that an applicant hold a journeyman license to qualify for a master license. He questioned how the Board could address this inconsistency without creating additional issues.

Executive Director Marquette stated that current law and regulations do not define or require that an applicant for a master's license must have first held a lower-level license.

Board Counsel noted that all other skilled trade boards have similar language in their respective statutes. She explained that the omission likely occurred because, at the time the legislation was drafted, the State Board was not authorized to issue apprentice and journeyperson licenses. As a result, the statute does

not specify that to be eligible for a master or journeyperson license, an applicant must have been employed regularly or principally as a licensee under a journeyperson or apprentice license, respectively.

Counsel further recommended that similar language be added to the provision governing journeyperson eligibility, requiring that an applicant must have been engaged or employed regularly as an apprentice electrician for the requisite period. She noted that incorporating such language would likely require proposed legislation, which, if a Departmental bill, could not be introduced until the 2027 legislative session. However, a private citizen or trade association could seek sponsorship to have a bill introduced during the 2026 legislative session.

Chairman Brown asked whether the Board could address this issue through regulation. Counsel advised that she recommends the matter be codified in statute rather than regulation.

Chairman Brown then inquired whether the Board could draft a regulation stating that, to be eligible for a master license in the State of Maryland, an applicant must first have held a journeyperson license, with the intention of later pursuing legislative action to formalize this requirement.

Counsel expressed concern with this approach, noting that adopting such a regulation could create inequities since not all current master license applicants may have held a journeyman license for the requisite period. She cautioned that this could lead to inconsistencies in enforcement.

After discussion, Mr. Irvin made a motion directing Counsel to draft a proposal establishing that an applicant must hold a journeyperson license to be eligible to sit for the master license examination. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Qualified Agent Discussion

Chairman Brown stated that during the Complaint Committee meeting there was a concern raised regarding an individual serving as a qualified agent for more than one company at the same time. The current position of the Board has been that a person may not act as a qualified agent for more than one company concurrently. It was noted by another member of the Committee that some qualified agents or master electricians may be under the mistaken impression that they are permitted to be a qualified agent for multiple companies simultaneously.

Chairman Brown explained his understanding based on Title 6, specifically §6-309(d)(1). The provision states that if an individual obtains a local registration using the State master electrician license of another individual, “the local registration may be assigned at any one time to only one person who engages in the business of providing electrical services.” Chairman Brown interpreted this to mean that a license cannot be assigned to two different companies at the same time. He further noted that under subsection (d)(2), once a license is reassigned to a new company, any local registrations activated under the previous company would become invalid because the individual is no longer the qualified agent for that business.

Counsel clarified that the phrase “the same person” in the cited provision refers to the individual or business entity providing the electrical services, not the qualified agent who allows use of their license to pull permits. Counsel further stated that although the statute does not explicitly provide that serving as a qualified agent for more than one unrelated business automatically terminates the initial assignment, the Board could pursue implementation of such language through regulation if it chooses. She suggested possible regulatory language requiring that if an individual is appointed as a qualified agent for an unaffiliated business, the qualified agent status for any other existing business or businesses is automatically terminated.

Chairman Brown noted that when a qualified agent changes the business to which their license is assigned, they are required to notify the State. The State then updates the assignment records accordingly. Therefore, no additional Board action is required at this time.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director Marquette stated, as most members are aware, the prior Board administrator has left the Department of Labor. The Department is actively working to refill the position and is currently moving through the approval and posting process. The goal is to have the position filled by the end of the year. Further updates will be shared as the hiring process progresses.

COUNSEL’S REPORT

Counsel did not offer a report

CHAIR’S REPORT

Chairman Brown did not offer a report.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion to enter closed session was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Poch, and unanimously approved by the Board. The Board entered closed session at 11:19 a.m.

The purpose of the closed session was to review the applications for an original Apprentice Electrician license, and Journeyperson license submitted by an applicant who disclosed prior felony convictions, pursuant to § 3-305(b)(2) and (7) of the Gen. Prov. Art., Md. Ann. Code, to protect the privacy and reputation of license applicants and to obtain advice provided by Counsel regarding the applications of individuals who reported a prior criminal history.

Applicant Review .01

An original apprentice license applicant a was convicted in 2020 of first-degree assault, a violent felony, and use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence, classified as a non-violent misdemeanor. They were sentenced to incarceration for 20 years, suspended, for the assault, and sentenced to incarceration for 20 years, all suspended but 10 years, for the firearm conviction, followed

by probation for five (5) years. The full 20-year sentence may be imposed if the applicant violates the terms of probation.

After review and discussion, Mr. Irwin made a motion to approve the applicant for an apprentice electrician license. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of approval.

Applicant Review .02

An apprentice license applicant was convicted in 2006 of first-degree murder and use of a handgun in the commission of a crime of violence. They were originally sentenced to incarceration for life plus 99 years for the murder charge, with an additional consecutive 20-year sentence for the handgun offense. In 2025, the sentence was modified to time served on the murder conviction, 19 years, seven months, and 28 days, with the remaining time suspended. The 20-year sentence for the handgun conviction was also suspended, to be served consecutively, followed by five years of supervised probation.

After review and discussion, Mr. Steinman made a motion to approve the apprentice license application. The motion did not receive a second and therefore failed. The motion was denied.

Mr. Poch moved to request additional information regarding his employment, character references and activities in the community since his release. Mr. Irvin seconded the motion, which the Board passed unanimously.

Applicant Review .03

An apprentice license applicant was convicted in 2023 of three (3) incidents of consensual sexual intercourse with a 15-year-old, a non-violent misdemeanor. They were sentenced to incarceration for 3 years, 12 months for each of the three (3) cases and probation for two years.

After review and discussion, Mr. Steinman made a motion to approve the applicant for an apprentice electrician license. Mr. Irvin seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of approval.

Applicant Review .04

The journeyperson applicant seeking to renew their license disclosed a 2016 felony conviction in Maryland for sexual solicitation of a minor. According to the record, they solicited an undercover police officer posing as a minor via email. The applicant sentenced to incarceration for three (3) years, suspended, and probation for two (2) years. Their probation termination satisfactorily on October 25, 2018.

After review and discussion including several character references, Mr. Poch moved to approve the journeyperson renewal application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Irvin and was unanimously approved by the Board.

A motion to reconvene to the business meeting was made by Mr. Irvin, seconded by Mr. Smith, and unanimously approved by the Board at 12:06 p.m.

A motion to adopt the findings of the closed session of October 28, 2025, was made by Mr. Steinman, seconded by Mr. Irvin and unanimously approved by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Irvin seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board at 12:08 p.m.

Charles Marquette, Executive Director
Mechanical Boards

Date

As voted and approved by the Board on: _____