

Registered Apprenticeship Sponsors,

This email is to inform/remind you of the requirements of an Electrical registered apprenticeship program as it relates to the apprentice and journeyman licensure. An individual who completes a qualifying Electrical registered apprenticeship Program, including (8,000 hours) of on-the-job training ("OJT") and 576 hours of related instruction is eligible for an original journeyman license or a journeyman license without the State license exam. Md. Ann. Code, Bus. Occ. & Prof. § 6-307.1

A registered apprentice is required to be licensed as an apprentice with the Maryland Department of Labor Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing for the full term of their apprenticeship. A registered apprentice is required to have obtained an apprentice license from the state Board of Electricians ("Board") upon at the time they begin an apprenticeship program. There has been a significant increase in the number of Electrical registered apprenticeship graduates seeking to qualify for a license examination waiver pursuant to Md. Ann. Code, Bus. Occ. & Prof. § 6-307.1 who have failed to apply for or maintain a valid Electrician apprentice license as required by law.⁴

Therefore, to assist our sponsors and to ensure that an Electrical registered apprentice who has completed a qualifying electrical apprenticeship program will be able to qualify for a license examination waiver, pursuant to § 6-307.1, the Board requires proof that an individual held a current apprentice electrician license during their tenure in the apprenticeship program. Effective June 1, 2022, all Electrical sponsors are required to include a copy of a current Electrical apprentice license in their files and to ensure that an apprentice license is properly updated throughout the entirety of an apprenticeship.

In addition, this will help to protect our sponsors, employers, and apprentices. As a reminder, an apprentice license is required of each individual before they are authorized to lawfully assist in the provision of Electrical services. See Md. Ann. Code, Bus. Occ. & Prof. § 6-307.1. Accordingly, there is no period during an apprenticeship program in which a participant can lawfully participate in the field work requirement without possessing a current apprentice license issued by the Board.

We also wish to remind Electrical registered apprenticeship sponsors of the language in COMAR 09.09.03.03, which requires that for an individual who has completed a qualifying apprenticeship program to be eligible for the journeyman license examination waiver, in accordance with § 6-307.1, the individual must "have completed the apprenticeship program within 2 years of the date the journeyman license application is filed." An applicant for a journeyman license two (2) or more years after completing an approved Electrical apprenticeship program will be required to sit for and pass the State journeyman license examination.

¹ Md. Ann. Code, Bus. Occ. & Prof. § 6-101(e).

Finally, if an individual who has failed to comply with the apprentice license requirement by providing or assisting in providing services without the lawfully required license while enrolled in an Electrical apprenticeship program, the Board may consider the provision of electrical services without a valid license as a violation of applicable law and may pursue regulatory action against the individual. Program participants should be made aware that the failure to obtain and maintain the required apprentice license for the entire tenure of an apprenticeship program could result in the Board pursuing regulatory action against them pursuant to §6-316; those employing or accepting apprenticeship workers should be made aware that allowing an unlicensed individual to assist in the provision of Electrical services could subject them to regulatory action by the Board in accordance with §§ 6–316 and 6-605.

Several years ago the MATC-approved programs, staff, applicable unions, associations, etc., worked with the Board to ensure that program participants were aware of the apprentice license requirement and assisted their enrolled students with applying for and obtaining the required apprentice license from the Board. This is a reminder of that obligation and of the requirements and that the failure to maintain the required license can result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty and criminal fine of up to \$1,000 for a first violation and up to \$5,000 for each subsequent violation, imprisonment of up to six (6) months or both. See, e.g., Md. Ann. Code, Bus. Occ. & Prof. § 6-607.

To assist you I am providing you with a link to the Maryland State Board of Electricians' website. You'll find this page has provides information and includes links to obtain and submit a license application, and applicable requirements, statutes and regulations:

<https://www.labor.maryland.gov/license/elec/>