**STATE BOARD OF ELECTRICIANS**

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** April 22, 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

Francis Harrison, Vice Chair, Consumer Member

Walter "Dave" Irvin, Industry Member

Donald Steinman, Industry Member

Steven Petri, Industry Member

William "Eric" Smith, Industry Member

**Members Absent:** Greg Kaderabek, Industry Member

John Peterson, Consumer Member

**Staff Present:** John Dove, Commissioner, Division of Occupational and Professional

Licensing

Sarah McDermott, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Occupational and

Professional Licensing

Charles Marquette, Executive Director

Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General

William Gross,Administrative Officer, Mechanical Licensing Unit

**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 10:03 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the March 25, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Irvin, and unanimously approved by the Board.

**Complaint Committee Report**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Closed Complaint** | **Under Investigation** | **Sent for A.G. Pre-Charge** | **Criminally Charged** |
|  | 24-0034 |  |  |
|  | 24-0037 |  |  |

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

**Application Review Committee**

Chairman Brown reported that the Board received a total of thirteen (13) examination applications—twelve (12) for the master license and one (1) for the journeyman license. Of the master applications reviewed, five (5) were approved, three (3) were denied, and four (4) remain pending. The single journeyman application was reviewed and denied.

Upon a motion by Mr. Irvin and a second by Mr. Petri, the Board voted unanimously to approve Chairman Brown’s report.

**Continuing Education Provider Committee Report**

Mr. Steinman reported that Mr. Dez Campbell of Comprehensive Education Solutions, an approved education provider, submitted a request to add three new courses. After review, the courses were approved. An approval email was sent to Mr. Campbell, with Tai Savage, Administrator of the Electricians Board, copied on the correspondence.

Mr. Steinman then reported that Mr. Gregory Stimeling Sr., representing Jim’s Consulting, submitted a request to become an approved education provider. Mr. Steinman advised that he had inquired about the course delivery format and Mr. Stimeling had confirmed that the course would be conducted in person. After reviewing the course content and Mr. Stimeling’s résumé, Mr. Steinman recommended approval. An approval email was subsequently sent to Mr. Stimeling, with Tai Savage copied on the communication.

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

**Exam Challenge Report**

No exam challenges were submitted; no report offered.

**Voice/Data/Video Committee Report**

Counsel informed the Board that an internal timeline will be established for submitting legislative proposals for the next legislative session. Anticipated changes include statute to incorporate amending the applicable statutory provisions to establish a license for voice/data/video (“VDV”) or low-voltage service providers or to ensure that the statutory definition of “provide electrical services” includes such services. *See* Md. Ann. Code, Bus. Occ. & Prof. § 6-101(k). The Board must determine how to integrate these individuals into the licensing structure. A request for initial legislative concept proposals and draft language is expected in the spring or summer.

Commissioner Dove noted that a more specific timeline for submissions would likely be provided in May or June. Chairman Brown asked whether the Board should wait for a formal request before submitting its proposal. Counsel clarified that the process begins with approval of a concept; if the concept is supported, additional legislative language and a justification therefore may then be requested.

Counsel emphasized the importance of clearly defining the rationale for any proposed changes. Since VDV and similar service providers have historically been excluded from licensure due to the interpretation that their work does not fall under the definition of “electrical services,” a shift in interpretation may require a phased-in or alternative licensing path. Counsel also noted that other licensing boards have managed similar transitions by incorporating a “grandfathering” provision. These provisions allow experienced, currently unlicensed professionals to apply directly for certain license levels or exams based on their years of industry experience.

Commissioner Dove stated that the Board would coordinate with representatives from Workforce Development to help shape the proposal and implementation plan. Mr. Harrison expressed the importance of allowing people to continue working in their field without interruption.

Counsel concluded by recommending that the Board consider developing regulatory or statutory provisions to authorize licensure for these professionals up to a defined deadline.

**Review of Examination Statistics and License Totals**

PSI exams submitted the following statistical summary:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Exam Type** | **Tested** | **Passed** | **Failed** | **Pass Rate %** |
| Master Electrician | 61 | 15 | 46 | 25% |
| Journeyperson Electrician | 31 | 9 | 22 | 29% |
| Total | 92 | 24 | 68 | 26% |

Mr. Gross reported that since January 2025, 238 candidates were tested, 64 passed, 174 failed, for a pass rate of 27%. Since the inception of the exam, 8,502 candidates were tested, 2,431 passed, 6,071 failed, for a pass rate of 29%.

**Correspondence**

None to be considered

**Old Business**

Wastewater Presentation

Director Marquette reported that the wastewater presentation has been shared with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and has been approved for distribution to local jurisdictions. The team is currently compiling contact information for all local boards and expects to distribute the materials within the next week. A full update, including statewide distribution status, will be provided at the next meeting.

COMAR 09.09.02.02 – Proposed Action to Adopt the NEC

The proposed adoption of the National Electrical Code (NEC) under COMAR 09.09.02.02 was published on 04/04/2025. The public comment expired on 05/05/2025. Mr. Marquette will present any public comments to the Board at the 05/27/2025 Board meeting, at which time the Board could consider final action, pending the Secretary’s approval.

Journeyman Exam Waiver

Counsel discussed the potential for a COMAR amendment that would allow individuals to apply for a journeyman license exam waiver upon completion of an apprenticeship program, within a specified timeframe. However, the change would only take effect after efforts to notify all potentially affected individuals are completed.

Counsel offered to draft language for the Board’s review at the next meeting.

Mr. Harrison moved to direct Counsel to draft language allowing currently working journeymen to apply for licensure under the exam waiver without regard to the two-year deadline. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith and unanimously approved.

Washington D.C. Reciprocal Licensing Agreement

Director Marquette reported that Washington, D.C. (“DC”) is awaiting the Maryland Board’s signature on the proposed reciprocal licensing agreement. Once signed, the DC Board will proceed with its own approval.

Mr. Irvin moved to accept and execute the agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steinman and unanimously approved.

In response to Chairman Brown’s inquiry regarding tradesmen who obtained state licenses through local jurisdiction exams, Director Marquette clarified that the letter of good standing has been updated. It now reflects that passing a Maryland county exam is equivalent to passing the Maryland State exam, with no reference to reciprocity.

SB931 / HB1036 – Solar Contractor License Legislation

Counsel briefed the Board on a new legislative requirement under SB931/HB1036, effective July 1, 2025. The law mandates that the Maryland Department of Labor establish a special solar contractor license for those installing and maintaining residential rooftop solar energy systems. It also includes penalties for non-compliant sellers or lessors.

Counsel and Executive Director Marquette previously communicated concerns to the legislature, emphasizing that installation work is already regulated by the Board of Electricians and sales functions are under the jurisdiction of the MHIC.

Commissioner Dove and Assistant Commissioner McDermott confirmed they are currently working on the implementation details.

Mr. Smith inquired about implementation, to which Counsel confirmed that the bill has passed and will likely require further regulations regarding license issuance, oversight, and potential fees.

**New Business**

Executive Director Marquette informed the Board that current regulations do not include a fee for the issuance of inspector identification cards. A proposal was introduced to consider establishing a fee for this process.

Counsel clarified that the Board issues identification card, not licenses, to inspectors in accordance with Md. Ann. Code, Bus. Occ. & Prof. § 6-313(c)(2) and (3). Consequently, the Board does not have authority to pursue disciplinary action against an inspector. If concerns arise regarding an inspector’s conduct, the Board’s role is to notify the relevant local jurisdiction or the inspector’s employer.

Chairman Brown inquired whether individuals applying for inspector identification cards who hold a master electrician license must “shelve” their license. Counsel confirmed that they must do so to serve as an inspector.

After a brief discussion regarding the potential cost of a fee, the Board agreed to table the matter until the next scheduled meeting.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Executive Director Marquette did not offer a report

**Counsel’s Report**

Counsel did not offer a report

**Chair’s Report**

Chairman Brown did not offer a report.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Steinman, and unanimously approved by the Board at 11:04 a.m.

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**Charles Marquette Date**

**Executive Director**

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