**STATE BOARD OF ELECTRICIANS**

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** June 24, 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

 Amadou Magazi, Industry 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

Ritchie Blymer, Investigator

 Tashera Savage, Administrative Officer I

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

 Robert Simmons-Wicomico County

**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 May 27, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Mr. Irvin, seconded by Mr. Steinman, 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** |
|  |  |  25-0006 |  |
|  |  | 24-0035 |  |
|  |  | 25-0001 |  |
|  |  | 25-0002 |  |
|  |  | 25-0004 |  |
|  |  | 25-0008 | 25-0008 |
| 25-0014/25-0015 |  |  |  |
| 25-0021 |  |  |  |
| 25-0022 |  |  |  |
|  | 25-0024 |  |  |

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

**CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDER COMMITTEE REPORT**

No continuing education report was provided; however, Mr. Steinman informed the Board that he is currently reviewing a potential provider’s credentials and has requested supporting materials from the applicant for further evaluation.

Upon a motion by Mr. Smith and a second 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 indicated that there were no updates at this time.

**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 | 54 | 22 | 32 | 41% |
| Journeyperson Electrician | 27 | 7 | 20 | 26% |
| Total | 81 | 29 | 52 | 36% |

Ms. Savage reported that since January 2025, 407 candidates were tested, 116 passed, 291 failed, for a pass rate of 29%. Since the inception of the exam, 8,671 candidates were tested, 2,483 passed, 6,188 failed, for a pass rate of 29%.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to be considered.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Wastewater Presentation

Director Marquette informed the Board that he has distributed Mr. Harrison’s Wastewater Presentation Report to the local jurisdictions and is currently awaiting confirmation from that it has been received.

Reciprocity

* Washington D.C.

 The Board of Industrial Trades in Washington, D.C. held their meeting and approved the reciprocity agreement. They are currently in the process of executing the agreement. Once the signed agreement is returned, Director Marquette will proceed with finalizing execution of the reciprocal licensing agreement. While no specific timeline was provided, he anticipates receiving it within the next week or two. A final update should be available by the next Board meeting.

* Virginia

There is no update on the Virginia reciprocity agreement.

* Delaware

Director Marquette was able to contact Delaware regarding reciprocal licensing. Currently, they recognize our master-level license under their process, although they do not refer to it as "reciprocity." Instead, Delaware law allows for licensure if the requirements of another state are deemed "substantially similar" to theirs. Their counsel has reviewed our master-level standards and determined they meet this threshold. Director Marquette indicated that he would approach them to initiate a discussion regarding extending reciprocal licensing to journeyperson licensees.

Regulation Update

Counsel Kinstler presented two draft regulatory changes as requested by the Board:

Timeframe for Journeyperson License Applications (COMAR 09.09.03.03)

New language would allow applicants who completed an approved apprenticeship program, regardless of how long ago, to apply for a journeyperson license without taking the exam, if submitted by December 31, 2025.

Effective January 1, 2026, the standard two-year window will apply, and applicants outside that timeframe will not be eligible for an exam waiver and will be required to take the exam. Counsel Kinstler requested that the Board provide input on whether these dates provide sufficient notice, noting the regulation may not take effect until fall 2025.

Upon a motion by Mr. Petri and a second by Mr. Steinman, the Board voted unanimously to take proposed action to amend COMAR 09.09.03.03, pending approval of the Secretary.

Clarification of Definition of “Provide Electrical Services” (COMAR 09.09.03.04)

Counsel Kinstler presented draft language to add a new section .04 to COMAR 09.09.03 to indicate that the definition of “provide electrical services” set forth in Business Occupations and Professions Article, §6-101(k), is based on the type and scope of work rather than the voltage of the equipment or apparatus involved.

Board members discussed ensuring the language is clear and that adequate public notice is provided through the website, local jurisdictions, and trade associations.

Upon a motion by Mr. Steinman and a second by Mr. Smith, the Board voted unanimously to proposed action to add Regulation .04 to COMAR 09.09.03, pending approval of the Secretary.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Qualified Agent

A question was raised by Chairman Brown regarding whether the Board can provide regulatory clarification on the assignment of a master electrician license to a company or business entity as a qualifying agent, particularly when the individual is not explicitly listed on paper.

Counsel Kinstler confirmed that while the relevant statute §6-401(d), which governs the assignment of a license based on a local registration, the Board may draft a regulation to provide clarification or interpretation, if it aligns with the statute. Such a regulation would reference the statute and define how it is to be applied in practice. Legislative change would only be necessary if the statute itself were altered.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Marquette announced that, as the fiscal year ends, the Board will undergo changes in membership. Mr. Peterson’s term has concluded, and a replacement will be appointed. Mr. Stephen Petri’s term has also ended. The Board extends its sincere appreciation for Mr. Petri’s dedicated service, particularly his exemplary contributions to the Complaint Committee.

New members are expected to join by next month, at which time the Board will re-establish the Complaint Committee, accordingly.

Additionally, the Executive Director, Chairman Brown and Ms. Savage recently attended a meeting with the Baltimore County Electrical Contractors Association. The discussion was active and productive, with several questions raised about licensing qualifications and potential concerns regarding unqualified individuals receiving licenses.

In response, the Commissioner’s Office has initiated an audit process in collaboration with PSI, Inc., the Board’s testing vendor. This audit, beginning July 1, 2025, will include quarterly reviews to verify that all license applicants meet the required qualifications for journeyperson and master licenses. While no issues have been identified to date, the audit aims to ensure ongoing compliance and identify any potential gaps.

The Board also continues to address public questions about licensing requirements, enforcement, and accountability, issues echoed at various outreach events. Efforts are ongoing to ensure that licensed professionals clearly understand who must hold a license and under what circumstances, particularly while working on job sites.

Updates on the PSI audit and related efforts will be provided as results become available.

**COUNSEL’S REPORT**

Counsel did not offer a report, but reminded the Board that it should plan to hold its annual officer elections during the August meeting. She explained that current officers may be nominated or self-nominate to continue in their post or a different member may be nominated.

**CHAIR’S REPORT**

Chairman Brown did not offer a report.

**CLOSED SESSION**

A motion to enter closed session was made by Mr. Steinman, seconded by Mr. Irvin, and unanimously approved by the Board. The Board entered closed session at 11:20 a.m. The Board entered closed session to review a request for license reinstatement from a former master electrician whose license was surrendered as part of a global settlement resolving three (3) complaints filed in FY 2020, with resolution finalized in 2023.

A charge letter was issued on July 11, 2023, and a consent order was signed on September 10, 2023, and executed on October 10, 2023, in which the individual admitted responsibility for the violations, which each constituted job abandonment.

Under the consent order, the individual agreed not to apply for reinstatement for one (1) year from the date of signing. The consent order provided that should an application for reinstatement be submitted after that period, a reinstatement hearing before the Board was required, along with compliance with any other stipulated conditions.

Following a review of the individual’s personal statement, Mr. Smith moved to schedule a hearing on the reinstatement request, which was seconded by Mr. Steinman. The Board unanimously voted to schedule a hearing to verify the claims presented in support of the reinstatement request, including documentation of restitution made by the applicant to complainants and as well as a reference letter from an electrician familiar with the applicant’s endeavor to observe and adopt best business practices.

A motion to return to the Business Meeting was made by Mr. Irvin, seconded by Mr. Steinman, and unanimously approved by the Board at 11:43 a.m.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to return to adjourn was made by Mr. Irvin, seconded by Mr. Steinman, and unanimously approved by the Board at 11:44 a.m.

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**Charles Marquette, Executive Director Date**

**Mechanical Boards**

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