**STATE BOARD OF ELECTRICIANS**

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** March 25, 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 Harris, 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

Charles Marquette, Executive Director

Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General

Ritchie Blymer, Investigator

 Tashera Savage, Administrative Officer I

 Amy Belt, Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council

 Alicia Dennis, Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council

**OTHERS** **PRESENT:** Johnnie Miller, Electrical Solutions, Master Electrician

 Trey Stokley, Master Electrician

**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 10:11 a.m.

Chairman Brown announced that if guests present wished to address the Board, he would recognize them if time permitted and their comments would be limited to two (2) minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve February 25, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Harris, 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** |
| 24-0032 | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| 24-0033 | Closed | Closed | Closed |
|  |  |  | 24-0038 |
|  |  | 24-0020 |  |

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 20 master applications for the examination. Out of the reviewed master applications, 14 were accepted, one (1) was denied, and five (5) are pending. One (1) Journeyperson application was received, which is pending.

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

**CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDER COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Steinman reported that Mr. Ryan Hogan was approved as a provider of a continuing education course is and Maine Electrical is pending while awaiting additional information on the course(s) offered.

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 offered.

**VOICE/DATA/VIDEO COMMITTEE REPORT**

While there are no updates or changes to be reported, Director Marquette and Chairman Brown discussed pursuing legislative concept approval during the Departmental legislative proposal period regarding training and qualification requirements. Commission Dove offered his assistance with a Board initiative in this regard.

**REVIEW OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS AND LICENSE TOTALS**

PSI exams submitted the following statistical summary:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Exam Type** |  **Tested** | **Passed** | **Failed** | **Pass Rate %** |
| Master Electrician | 58 | 21 | 37 | 36% |
| Journeyperson Electrician | 25 | 4 | 21 | 16% |
| Total | 83 | 25 | 58 | 30% |

Ms. Savage reported that since January 2025, 229 candidates were tested, 65 passed, 164 failed, for a pass rate of 28%. Since the inception of the exam, 8,326 candidates were tested, 2,381 passed, 5,945 failed, for a pass rate of 29%.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None to be considered.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Voice/Data/Video

Chairman Brown reported the Voice/Data/Video Committee currently had no updates at this time

Onsite Wastewater

Director Marquette informed the Board that the presentation will be distributed when the correct contact at the Maryland Department of the Environment (“MDE”) is identified. Mr. Harrison clarified that his request was that the presentation, which has already been submitted to MDE, be forwarded to the local electrical board in local jurisdictions.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Legislative Update

HB 1170/SB 794 – Residential Solar

The sponsor withdrew the bill and incorporated language pertaining to electricians into HB 1036/SB 931 concerning Public Utilities.

HB 1036/SB 931 – Public Utilities

Director Marquette and Counsel explained that amendments were offered to amend the bill to include a requirement for sellers of solar installations to have an MHIC license and doe the installation itself to be done by an appropriately licensed electrician.

HB 1039/SB 913 – Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment

The bill pertains to public electric vehicle supply equipment. Director Marquette and Counsel explained that the Department has proposed amendments to clarify that licensed electricians are responsible for installation and maintenance of charging stations.

Complaint Committee Enforcement Concerns

The Complaint Committee has observed that some individuals have been alleged to “farm out” their license, essentially offering to “sell” their credential, thereby allowing others to operate using their license. It has been suggested to add pictures of the licensee to the license to address such fraudulent behavior and clarify the identity of a licensee for the purposes of obtaining a local mechanical permit.

Counsel clarified for the Board that law permits an unlicensed individual or under-licensed electrician to own and operate an electrical business if the individual employs or subcontract work to a licensed master electrician, responsible oversee all work.

Awareness campaigns have also been discussed to make all members of the electrical community aware of all guidelines. Director Marquette informed the Board of his initiative and work with apprenticeship sponsors to ensure that all individuals enrolled in an apprenticeship program are aware that they must hold an apprentice license for the entire term of the apprenticeship to obtain credit for work experience and qualify for a journeyperson license examination waiver.

Comar 09.09.03.03 – Time for Submitting a License Application

COMAR 09.09.03.03 provides that as of July 1, 2024, an applicant for a license filed pursuant to Business Regulation Article, §6-307.1(2), Annotated Code of Maryland, authorizing the Board to issue a journeyperson license 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, shall apply for licensure within two (2) years of completing the apprentice program.

The Board discussed several applications submitted by individuals who completed an apprenticeship program well before statewide licensing was implemented in 2021 and journeyperson license requirements were revised in 2022. The Board also discussed that some currently registered apprentices in apprenticeship programs may not have known to obtain an apprentice license when they started the program, and it was not until Director Marquette and agency officials overseeing MATC programs reminded apprenticeship sponsors if the apprentice license requirement. The Board discussed the matter with input from Counsel interpreting the applicable laws and determined that: (1) the Board ought to allow individuals who can provide proof of completion of an approved apprenticeship program prior to July 1, 2022 should be eligible for a journeyperson electrician license exam waiver, notwithstanding the language of COMAR 09.09.03.02 and .03; and (2) the Board will also allow an individual who obtains an apprentice license sometime after enrolling in an apprenticeship program, limited to the approximate time that agency officials reminded apprenticeship sponsors of the apprentice license requirement to qualify for the journeyperson license exam waiver.

Mr. Irvin moved that the Board accept applications under these criteria for completion of and enrollment in an approved electrical apprenticeship program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steinman and unanimously approved by the Board.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Marquette reported that the Spanish version of the electrician license exams administered by PSI, Inc. will be available beginning on 4/9/2025. Director Marquette has also been working with the states and the District of Columbia to negotiate reciprocal licensing agreements. He will provide an update at the next Board meeting.

**COUNSEL’S REPORT**

Counsel did not offer a report.

**CHAIR’S REPORT**

Chairman Brown did not offer a report.

**Public Comments**

Trey Stokley:

Mr. Stokley expressed concern that the Board has not conducted the mandatory inspector seminars, and expressed his opinion that, with funds collected for electrician licenses, Board members should have paid positions. Chairman Brown assured Mr. Stokley his concerns would be addressed.

Johnnie Miller

Mr. Miller expressed his concerns about HB1170/SB794 and said that electricians are allowed to provide electrical services without being required to obtain another license to work. Chairman Brown has asked Mr. Miller to submit his concerns to Director Marquette via email so his concerns can be addressed.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Counsel Kinstler advised that the Board would convene in a closed session to review two applications

in which the applicant had reported a prior criminal history, pursuant to Business Occupations and

Professions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland in compliance with § 3-305(b)(2), (7), and (11) of

General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, to protect the privacy and reputation of

license applicants and to receive advice of Counsel regarding the Commission’s authority pertaining to

such applications.

Mr. Steinman moved that the Board enter into closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris, and unanimously approved by the Board at 12:19 p.m.

Application 01

Counsel Kinstler presented an application for an apprentice electrician license by an individual disclosing a prior criminal history. In 2016, the applicant was convicted of conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance, a misdemeanor, for which they were sentenced to incarceration for 18 months, all suspended, and two (2) years of probation. Court-ordered supervision should have been completed in 2018. Counsel advised that even if the applicant had violated probation and had to serve 18 months before probation concluded, the supervision should have been completed by 2020.

After a discussion by the Board, a motion to approve the apprentice license was made by Mr. Petri. Mr. Steinman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by a majority of the members, with Mr. Smith abstaining.

Application 02

Counsel Kinstler presented an application submitted by an individual who has completed a four-year apprenticeship program seeking approval for the journeyperson license examination waiver and who reported a prior criminal history. The applicant submitted true test documents reflecting several criminal convictions. In 2006, they were convicted of breaking and entering and possession of burglary tools, both felonies, for which they were sentenced to some type of supervision, but the court records did not indicate any further. Also, 2006, they were convicted of a felony drug offense for which they were sentenced to incarceration for two (2) years, all suspended and probably probation for some period, but court records do not indicate. In 2007, they were found to have violated his probation, likely for the second 2006 conviction above, and sentenced to incarceration for some period but the record provides no further information. In 2010, they were convicted of accessory after the fact, a felony, for a breaking and entering offense, a misdemeanor, for which they were sentenced to incarceration for 12 months with all time suspended except one (1) month. There was likely a period of probation imposed but the record does not confirm this or for how long. In 2025, the applicant was convicted of misdemeanor assault of a family member, making this a domestic dispute. No sentence information provided. The Board considered the applicant’s additional documents related to the applicant’s employment, their personal statement, certifications earned, and work experience.

A motion to approve the application for the journeyperson electrician license was made by Mr. Steinman and seconded by Mr. Petri and was approved by a majority of the members, with Mr. Smith abstaining.

A motion to return to the business meeting was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Harris, and unanimously approved by the Board at 12:33 p.m.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Irvin, and unanimously carried by the Board at 12:34 p.m.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Charles Marquette, Executive Director Date**

**Mechanical Boards**

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