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**STATE BOARD OF ELECTRICIANS  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** February 27, 2024

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**PLACE:** Via Google Meet Video and Teleconference + 321-465-5183; PIN: 457 489 090#

**MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Chet Brown, Chairman  
Greg Kaderabek, Vice Chairman  
Donald Steinman, Industry Member  
Steven Petri Sr., Industry Member  
Francis Harrison, Consumer Member  
Walter “David” Irvin, Industry Member  
William “Eric” Smith, Industry Member

**MEMBERS**

**ABSENT:** John Peterson, Industry Member

**STAFF**

**PRESENT:** John Bull, Executive Director  
Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General  
Johnston Brown, Administrative Officer I

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** None

**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 10:15 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Harrison moved to approve the January 23, 2024, meeting minutes without amendment. Mr. Petri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Eight (8) new complaints were reviewed, as well as complaints from previous meeting:

ELEC 24-0013: Determined to be a civil matter, administratively closed.

ELEC 24-0014: A complaint alleged the respondent offered to provide and provided electrical services through an electrical business by advertisement, without the required license. The matter was resolved between the parties by a consent order. The consent order reflects a sanction of a civil monetary penalty of \$1500.00.

ELEC 23-0020: Resolved by a settlement between a contractor and homeowner.

Mr. Kaderabek moved to accept the Complaint Committee report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

### **APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Brown reported that he was given four (4) applications for reviewed, of which one (1) was accepted, two (2) were denied, and one (1) is pending.

Mr. Harrison moved to accept the Application Review Committee report. Mr. Kaderabek seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDER REPORT**

Discussion tabled until next meeting.

### **EXAM CHALLENGES REPORT**

No exam challenges were submitted; no report was offered.

### **REVIEW OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS AND LICENSE TOTALS**

PSI exams submitted the following statistical summaries for the month of October 2023:

<b>Exam Type</b>	<b>Tested</b>	<b>Passed</b>	<b>Failed</b>	<b>Pass Rate %</b>
Master Electrician	33	10	23	30%
Journeyman Electrician	10	1	9	10%
Total	43	11	32	26%

The cumulative since the inception of the test, for **Masters:** 7,171 with 2,096 passing and 5,075 failing with a pass rate of 29%. **Journeyman:** 400 with 87 passing, and 313 failing with a pass rate of 22%. Overall year to date, 7,571 exams with 2,183 passing and 5,388 failing with a pass rate of 29%.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None to be considered.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Discussion on Voice/Data/Video Services**

Board members continued discussion of considering the proposal of legislation to create a potential license classification for the provision of voice, data, and video services. The Board agreed that they should reach out to local jurisdictions who issue a low-voltage credential and the criteria to qualify. Chairman Brown suggested conducting a poll to be sent to the jurisdictions on the matter. Director Bull will compose and send a letter to the appropriate jurisdictions.

Counsel cautioned that local jurisdictions should be assured by the Board that any potential state license in this regard would allow the local jurisdiction to continue to require service providers to obtain and pay a fee, if they choose, for a permit to provide such services within the local jurisdiction.

### **COMAR 09.09.02.01 Required Hours of Continuing Education**

The Board's proposed action to correct the language of COMAR 09.09.02.01, pertaining to continuing education, to substitute "authorized/unauthorized" for "uninsured" has been submitted to the Secretary's office and is still under review awaiting approval of proposed action, which was taken by the Board on January 23, 2024.

### **COMAR 09.09.01.03 Fees and Costs**

The comment period for COMAR 09.09.01.03 to increase certain fees has passed. Mr. Bull stated that no comments were submitted to the Board, and that the Board is authorized to consider final action.

Mr. Harrison moved to take final action to amend COMAR 09.09.01.03 as proposed; Mr. Kaderabek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **Onsite Wastewater Management**

Mr. Bull stated that Secretary Wu may contact the Department of the Environment directly to inquire about the intent of the Onsite Wastewater Management Commission ("Commission") regarding the request for a waiver from the permit for licensed electricians.

Mr. Harrison stated that most of the Board members of the Commission were appointed and sworn in. He advised that a final member of the Onsite Wastewater Management Commission has been named and is awaiting Senate confirmation.

The Board is still waiting on a decision concerning the distribution of the wastewater management presentation.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Committee vacancies**

Chairman Bull stated that the Board should designate a second member to join the Complaint Committee in addition to Mr. Petri. Counsel advised that other boards usually select three (3) members to comprise a Complaint Committee, to include at least two (2) industry members and one (1) consumer member.

Mr. Harrison moved to establish the Complaint Committee with Mr. Petri, Mr. Smith, and Chairman Brown. Mr. Kaderabek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Kaderabek moved to replace Chairman Brown on the Examination Review Committee with Mr. Steinman; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Legislative update 2024 General Assembly

Mr. Bull provided an update on pending proposed legislation that may be of interest to the Board.

Senate Bill 298 State Board of Electricians - Licensing - Penalties

The bill would establish language, similar to existing provision § 6-608 of Bus. Occ. & Prof. Art., Md. Ann. Code, to authorize the Board to impose civil monetary penalty upon a licensee or applicant who has been found to have violated § 6-316.

Senate Bill 54/House Bill 175 Occupational Licensing and Certification - Criminal History - Prohibited Disclosures and Predetermination Review Process

The bill pertains to the criminal history of applicants and licensees and would limit the disclosure of information a license applicant may be asked to provide and change the period for which a board could deny a license based solely upon a conviction (with exceptions, per the bill) from seven (7) years to three (3) years.

House Bill 269 Criminal Procedure - Disclosure of Expunged Records - Alterations

The bill would allow expungement for certain criminal records. If granted, a board is prohibited from asking the applicant to discuss or provide information about the conviction and may not base a license denial on such an offense. Counsel stated that the bill would not change the Board's current application process as her advice has historically been that than expungement does not constitute a conviction. Counsel distinguished between an expungement having been granted and an applicant reporting that he/she has filed a motion for an expungement has been filed or is pending.

Mr. Bull stated that as he becomes aware of any additional information on bills, he will notify the Board.

Senate Bill 1072/House Bill 1201 Occupational and Professional Licensing - Military Training and Military Spouses

The bill pertains to military experience for veterans and spouses to be credited toward license eligibility if comparable to Maryland. The Board should have some discretion to determine whether such experience is comparable to, or meets, or exceeds Maryland requirements.

House Bill 642 Apprenticeships in Licensed Occupations Act of 2024

The bill would require that an applicant for a license who has completed apprenticeship program that has been approved by the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council ("MATC") be granted a journey license upon completion of the program and will develop programs for occupations that are not currently offered. Mr. Bull stated that the bill will not affect the Board because it has an existing statutory requirement for a license exam waiver for individuals who have completed a MATC apprenticeship program.

District of Columbia Reciprocal Licensing

The Board reviewed the reciprocal licensing agreement between the Board and the District of Columbia Board of Industrial Trades ("DC"). The agreement would establish reciprocal licensing for master and journeyman license holders between DC and the Board. The Board had no objections to the language of the agreement.

Mr. Petri moved to accept the reciprocal licensing agreement with the District of Columbia Board of Industrial Trades ("DC") and to seek approval from the Office of the Secretary to forward it to the DC for review. Mr. Irvin seconded the motion, which passed by a majority with all voting in favor except Mr. Steinman, who abstained.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **Reappointments**

Mr. Smith is expected to be reappointed for another term.

### **Delaware Reciprocal Licensing Agreement**

Executive Director Bull is working to establish contact with an official of the Delaware Board of Electrical Examiners to finalize a reciprocal licensing agreement as they do not currently have an Executive Director.

### **Investigator Vacancy**

The Board's has resigned to accept another position. The vacancy position was posted and received one (1) applicant, who did not meet the necessary requirements. The position will be re-advertised.

### **Records Manager Position**

The position announcement has closed and re received an abundance of applications. Mr. Bull will select applicants to be interviewed.

### **Retirement**

Director Bull announced to the Board he will retire on November 1, 2024.

## **COUNSEL'S REPORT**

None.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

None.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Counsel Kinstler explained that the Board would convene in a closed session to consider two (2) license applications in accordance with § 3-305 (b)(2) and (7) of the Gen. Prov. Art., Md. Ann. Code, to protect the privacy and reputation of a licensee or license applicant and to obtain legal advice provided by Counsel.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to convene in closed session; Mr. Smith seconded. The Board voted unanimously to convene in a closed session at 11:46 a.m.

## **REVIEW OF ELECTRICIAN LICENSE APPLICATION**

### **License Application 01:**

Counsel reminded the Board a journey person license application through an exam waiver considered at the January 23, 2024 meeting from whom the Baard requested additional information. The applicant was convicted in 2021 of a third-degree sex offense, a felony, and is required to register as a Tier III sex offender. Mr. Bull verified that the applicant has met all the requirements for a journey person license waiver. The applicant completed an electrical apprenticeship in 2020. The applicant did not provide an explanation letter or any letters of recommendation.

Director Bull wrote to the applicant in October 2023 and January 2024 notifying the applicant that the Board required supplemental information to fully evaluate the applicant's qualification for a license with no response.

Mr. Steinman moved to deny the application as the applicant failed to provide sufficient information for the Board to grant the application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith and was unanimously approved.

License Application 02:

Counsel reminded the Board of an application for an apprentice license presented at the January 23, 2024 Board meeting. The applicant was convicted in 1994 of second-degree rape and attempted murder, felonies. The applicant did not provide any information on the sentence imposed, an explanation letter or employment verification.

Director Bull wrote to the applicant in October 2023 and January 2024 notifying the applicant that the Board required supplemental information to fully evaluate the applicant's qualification for a license with no response.

Mr. Steinman moved to deny the license application as the applicant failed to provide sufficient information for the Board to grant the application. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Minutes of January 23, 2024 Closed Session

The Board discussed a correction to the January 23, 2024 closed session minutes.

Mr. Kaderabek moved to adjourn the closed session and reconvene the business meeting at 11:57 a.m. Mr. Petri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Kaderabek moved to adopt the findings of the closed session; the motion was seconded by Mr. Irvin and passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kaderabek moved to adjourn the February 27, 2024, meeting of the Board; Mr. Steinman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously to adjourn the February 27, 2024, business meeting at 12:02 p.m.

**Signature on File**

**April 23, 2024**

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**John Bull, Executive Director**  
**Mechanical Boards**

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**Date**

**As voted and approved by the Board on: April 23, 2024**