

HCS HB 2063 -- ELECTRICAL LICENSING BOARD

SPONSOR: Mathews

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Standards and Development by a vote of 9 to 3. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations by a vote of 8 to 2.

This bill creates the Missouri Electrical Industry Licensing Board. The board will consist of nine members and any member may be removed from the board by the Governor for neglect of duty, incompetency, or unethical conduct. The board along with the Division of Professional Registration must adopt rules regarding licensure, professional conduct, and competency requirements. The division in conjunction with the board may negotiate reciprocal licensing agreements with other states.

The bill provides license requirements for a statewide electrical contractor's license. Electrical contractors who hold a license that was issued in this state which required, prior to 2005, the passage of an examination, and who have completed 12,000 hours of practical experience shall be issued a statewide license. Each electrical contracting firm must have at least one licensed electrical contractor at a supervisory level.

Persons operating as an electrical contractor in a political subdivision that does not require a local license are not required to possess a statewide license to operate as an electrical contractor in such political subdivision. Political subdivisions are still allowed to establish their own local electrical contractor's license, but must recognize a statewide license in lieu of a local license for the purposes of performing contracting work within the political subdivision.

The bill also creates the Missouri Electrical Industry Licensing Board Fund and any money remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium must not go to the credit of the General Revenue Fund. When a licensed electrical contractor transfers employment to a new company, then all permits on the license must first be cleared. The licensee must notify the division of the licensee's intent to transfer employment and any current active permits on the license. Upon notification, the division must notify all affected political subdivisions.

The board may suspend or refuse to issue or renew a license for causes specified in the bill. The board must publish a list of valid statewide license holders, a list of current enforcement actions against license holders, and procedures for filing

grievances against licensees.

An individual whose license has been revoked must wait one year to reapply for licensure, and relicensure is at the discretion of the board. Any person who knowingly violates the provisions of this act is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

This bill is similar to SB 250 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that marketplace competition is enhanced by creating one electrical industry licensing board. This bill establishes statewide standards for subdivisions that choose to have electrical contract license requirements. Supporters also say that this would increase contractors' ability to hire from any county, because there would be one test and one license accepted statewide. There would be no need to take a new or different test every time work in a different county was accepted.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Mathews; Larry Burmeister, IEC; Sheila Sperla, IEC Of Greater St. Louis; and Lou Schrorer.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that this would be a better situation if there were adequate funding. Opponents go on to say that this bill is redundant and unnecessary, not to mention costly, because this creates another board and another fund. This is not the least restrictive way to accomplish the stated goal.

Testifying against the bill were IBEWL/St. Louis NECA; Matt Doell, P.E.; St. Louis County Government; and United For Missouri.