



Kent County Board of Electrical Examiners Meeting Summary

The Kent County Board of Electrical Examiners met on Thursday, July 1, 2021, at 8:30 a.m., in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 400 High Street, Chestertown, Maryland. The following members were in attendance: D. Michael Usilton, Chair; William Baldwin, Member; and Victor Shepard, Member. Also present were Mike Bitting, Chief Code Enforcement Officer; Bryan Foreman, Enforcement Officer; and Sandy Adams, Clerk.

Attending the meeting remotely were William A. Mackey, Director, Department of Planning, Housing, and Zoning; and Jack Wilson, Jr, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County, and Chair of the Maryland State Board of Electricians.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The June 3, 2021 meeting minutes were approved as presented by D. Michael Usilton, Chair.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Electrical Licensing pertaining to MD SB762:

Mr. Jack Wilson, Jr. attended the meeting remotely, as a guest, to discuss how SB762 affects the County's current electrical licensing process and to answer any questions the Board might have. Mr. Wilson provided the following information:

- Effective July 1st, the State is responsible for issuing and renewing all master electrician licenses; the counties provide local registration. Mr. Wilson said counties should not "reinvent the wheel". Instead, they should continue with their same numbering system, but term it as a "registration" and not a license.
- Electricians that currently do not have a master state license will have the ability to take their county license to the State and reciprocate (their local license) under grandfathering until December 31, 2022.
- Rate schedules have not been approved; it is still a work in progress.
- People can no longer apply for a master electrician license through reciprocity; they must go to the State to obtain a master electrician license.
- The State will not require counties to register Journeymen; and it will not define how local counties establish registration of Journeymen.
- All local licenses, i.e., outside of providing electrical services, can remain in place. The State has nothing to do with any kind of low voltage or limited licensing unless it overlaps into providing electrical services. If this is the case, the County must look into where it falls within the state licensure format.
- Pertaining to Homeowner licensing, if a service is being provided and tying into the grid, electrical services are being provided. Action: Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Bitting to email Robin and propose this question for determining how it fits in with SB762.
- Pertaining to master electricians who shelved their license prior to July 1, 2021, the license is active providing the electrician has insurance. If the licensee does not have insurance, they must go to the State to reactivate the license.



- The state will notify counties when a master electrician’s license has expired. The county would then suspend the registration until the license has been renewed with the state.
- The State will monitor continuing education credits under the existing master electrician law; counties are not responsible for monitoring the credits.
- Mr. Wilson said he anticipates that it will take counties and the state approximately six months to work through this new process.

The Board agreed that they need to schedule a meeting with the County’s attorney to determine if the various local licenses that the County provides falls under the state’s definition of providing service and whether or not the County can continue to provide these licenses due to liability.

In closing, the Board made the decision to temporarily stop issuing and renewing the local licenses until it has been reviewed further with the County’s attorney. This includes Homeowner Electrical, Restricted Limited, and Restricted Residential licenses.

ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further business, Chairperson Usilton adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

D. Michael Usilton, Chair

Sandy Adams, Clerk

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