

**State Board of Electricians  
Business Meeting  
Minutes**

**DATE:** October 25, 2022  
**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.  
**PLACE:** Via Google Meet Video and Teleconference + 321-465-5183  
PIN: 457 489 090#

**MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Chet Brown, Vice Chairman  
Paul Donaghue, Industry Member  
Steven Petri Sr., Industry Member  
Francis Harrison, Consumer Member  
Jose Anderson, Consumer Member  
John Peterson, Industry Member  
Greg Kaderabek, Industry Member

**MEMBERS**

**ABSENT:** Jack Wilson, Chairman

**STAFF**

**PRESENT:** Greg Morgan, Commissioner, Occupational and Professional Licensing Division  
John Bull, Executive Director, Mechanical Boards  
Sloane Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General  
LaKissha Thornton, Administrative Officer I  
Johnston Brown, Administrative Specialist III  
Danielle Anderson, Web and Outreach Coordinator, MD Dept. of Labor

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** None

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice Chairman, Chet Brown, called the Business Meeting of the Maryland State Board of Electricians to Order at 10:02 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Peterson was to adopt the new minutes of the September 27, 2022, Board Meeting and seconded by Mr. Anderson. Vice Chairman Brown asked the Application Review Committee Report should be amended to include journeyman applications that had been presented for review after the September meeting. Counsel Kinstler advised that those results should not be included in the minutes of the September 27, 2022, meeting. Counsel advised that they should be

included in the October Application Review Committee Report. Having no corrections, the Board voted by roll call vote to unanimously approve the minutes of the September 27, 2022, business meeting.

**COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was no Complaint Committee meeting or report. Executive Director Bull advised the Board that the Complaint Manager position had been filed and that a Complaint Manager would begin employment on November 9, 2022. He also stated the Board Investigator, Andrew Klausing, had begun working through the pending complaints and that there would be a meeting of the Complaint Committee prior to the November 2022 meeting.

**APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

Vice Chairman Brown reported that before the September 27, 2022, meeting, four (4) journeyman exam applications were reviewed with two (2) being approved and two (2) being denied. Vice Chairman Brown stated that no applications had been submitted for review to the Application Review Committee during the month of October. Counsel Kinstler questioned Director Bull as to whether any applications would be sent to the Committee during the month of November. Director Bull stated that result of the Committee’s review of subsequently submitted applications would be reported to the Board at the November 2022 Board meeting.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDER REPORT**

No applications to review or report.

**EXAM CHALLENGES REPORT**

None submitted.

**REVIEW OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS AND LICENSE TOTALS**

PSI exams submitted the following statistical summaries for the month of July 2022:

<b>Electricians</b>	<b>Candidates Tested</b>	<b>Passed</b>	<b>Failed</b>	<b>Pass %</b>
Master Electricians	54	16	38	30%

<b>Journeyman Electrician</b>	<b>Candidates Tested</b>	<b>Passed</b>	<b>Failed</b>	<b>Pass %</b>
Journeyman Electricians	13	3	10	23%

Since January 2022 there were 637 candidates tested, with 157 passing and 480 failing, for a pass rate of 25%. Since the inception of the test there were 6798 candidates tested, with 1989 passing and 4809 failing for a pass rate of 29%. There are currently 11,568 licensees.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None to be considered.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Bull acknowledged O&P Commissioner, Gregory Morgan, and asked if he had anything he would like to add to the meeting. Commissioner Morgan replied by thanking the Board members for their participation. He went on to state that Director Bull and the Board staff were doing a good job handling the influx of journeyman license applications.

Director Bull reiterated that the Complaint Manager would begin working on November 9, 2022. He then introduced Johnston Brown, the new Administrator for the Board. Mr. Brown introduced himself to the Board, thanked them for welcoming him to the position, and stated that he was eager to learn and happy to be a part of state government.

Director Bull informed the Board that he would have an update regarding reciprocity agreements at next month's meeting. He stated that he drafted reciprocity agreements with Virginia and West Virginia and that the drafts had been sent to and edited by Counsel Kinstler after review. He further stated that the proposed agreements would be placed on the November agenda for the Board's review, and, if approved, would then be sent to the respective agencies for approval. Director Bull stated that he had received no response to his inquiries to the Delaware and District of Columbia electrical authorities and did not anticipate being able to amend or renegotiate the reciprocity agreements with those states.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

None offered.

## **COUNSEL'S REPORT**

None offered.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Harrison asked Director Bull if he could begin a discussion of his proposal to send wastewater information to the local jurisdictions. Director Bull replied that the Board had not had an opportunity to review the material submitted by Mr. Harrison and that the matter should be placed on next month's agenda. Counsel Kinstler advised Mr. Harrison that, if he wished to defer the discussion he could do so, but he could also begin a discussion of the topic during the meeting, if he sought Vice Chairman Brown's approval. Mr. Harrison replied that he would like to give a summary of the material. Vice Chairman Brown had no objection with introducing the topic during the meeting to give the Board some context as to what would be presented next month. Mr. Harrison stated that the material he prepared for distribution would include guidance on control panel height; junction boxes; piggyback switches; conduit sealing; use of weatherproof conduits or raceways, UL Listed and

National Science Foundation approved adherence; and wire color coding, that he asserted constituted a consumer protection issue. He requested that the Board review the material before the next meeting. Mr. Kaderabek commented that he appreciated Mr. Harrison's message and his intent to distribute this information and asked Counsel Kinstler and Director Bull how the Board would handle the distribution of the information to the local jurisdictions. Mr. Harrison replied that the Board can distribute the information but not to enforce proposed recommendations. Counsel Kinstler replied that she would like to review the material before giving an opinion to the Board regarding its authority on the matter.

Vice Chairman Brown questioned whether Mr. Harrison's document would include pictures and/or diagrams. Mr. Harrison replied stating that he would include some pictures and diagrams to accompany the previously submitted document. Counsel Kinstler requested that the complete document and photographs be distributed to Board members in sufficient time before the meeting to give members of the Board an opportunity to review the materials before the meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Petri asked Director Bull about the status of processing journeyman license examination waiver applications. Director Bull stated that average processing time for an application from that date it was received is currently around sixty (60) days. Director Bull stated that more than 2,000 applications had been processed and staff was working diligently to process the remaining applications.

Director Bull informed the Board that new legislation was expected to be proposed by Senator McCray regarding Inactive master licensure. The bill is expected to allow for a master to hold an Inactive master license and work in the field. He stated that the bill is expected to address an issue arising from the passage for Senate Bill 762, as Inactive State master licensees had been allowed to work in the field with an active county license before the passage of the bill. Director Bull stated that when the new legislation was available, he would send the draft to the Board and Counsel Kinstler.

Mr. Petri asked Director Bull if any other mechanical licensing Boards had such a provision to prohibit working without a license in their statutes. Director Bull stated that all of the other mechanical licensing Boards have such a provision. Mr. Petri asked, if the bill, if passed, would take effect next year. Director Bull replied that he expected that it would. Mr. Petri asked whether journeyman electricians working in the field must be work under a licensed master electrician. Director Bull advised that the law requires a journeyman electrician is authorized to work under the direction and control of a licensed master electrician. Mr. Petri then asked if persons working for government are required to obtain a license. Counsel Kinstler advised that if a person is working in a county- or government-owned building and they are an employee of the government unit, that it is the opinion of Division Director and Counsel to the Department of Labor, that the employee is not required to be licensed.

Mr. Donaghue asked if there were any updates regarding proposed legislation related to low-voltage electrician licensing. Director Bull stated that, that to his knowledge, no legislation related to low-voltage licensing had been proposed. Mr. Donaghue stated that he believed a proposal regarding low-voltage licensing that had gone to committee, but no report had been issued from the committee. Director Bull stated that he would research the issue and report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Kaderabek asked whether a definition of low-voltage electricity has been proposed, pointing out that the current bill did not address the issue. He stated that, in the industry, low-voltage is generally considered to be 600 watts or less, mid-range voltage being considered as between 600 and 35,000 volts, and high-voltage to be above 35,000 volts. Counsel Kinstler stated that when the Task Force was issued its report that resulted in Senate Bill 762 (2021), the low-voltage integrators and service provider representatives could not agree on a definition for low-voltage electrical services or whether providers were called integrators or service providers. Counsel noted that at the time, the industry agreed that while the solar panels were considered a low-voltage device, a licensed master electrician was required to perform the installation, due to the voltage involved and possibility of harm or injury to installers and consumers. Counsel opined that unless the industry agreed on a definition of low-voltage and a title of the provider, it would be unlikely that there would be any proposed legislation passed on low-voltage licensing in the next session.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board did not convene in a closed session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Before adjournment, Vice Chair Brown welcomed Mr. Johnston Brown. He acknowledged that, while this was a very busy time for the Board, they have the full support of the Board members. He stated that the Board is available to help where they can and would be encouraging as he found his footing.

Mr. Petri resumed a discussion about journeyman license applications. Director Bull discussed required documentation to accompany the waiver of examination application. Mr. Petri asked about how applications were handled when an applicant was not able supervising Master Electrician would not to obtain work experience certification from a supervising master electrician. Director Bull stated that the Board could not compel a master to certify work experience that they did not personally observe, but if an applicant is unable to obtain a master's signature on their certification forms, there are other options to demonstrate work experience. Director Bull stated that Board will accept employment verification letters from a local Electrical Union, or notarized letters from the owner of an electrical company, that attest to the applicant's requisite number of years of experience in lieu of a signed certification form.

Mr. Kaderabek advised stating to the Board that he sent all of members a YouTube video entitled "Can 12 Volts Start a Fire" and recommended that everyone watch the video. He stated the video demonstrates the need for consistency in licensing.

Vice-Chairman Brown pointed out to the Board that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled for November 22, 2022, and asked if the Board members would be amenable to rescheduling the meeting as it was set to occur during the week of Thanksgiving. Vice Chairman Brown also stated that he recalls in previous years, the December meeting of the Board was typically cancelled. Counsel Kinstler confirmed that the December meeting has not been held in previous years. Counsel advised that the November meeting could be cancelled, or the date could be changed to a mutually convenient date to accommodate the Board. Director Bull proposed that the November meeting be held on Tuesday, November 29, 2022.

A motion to move the November meeting from November 22, 2022, to November 29, 2022 was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Petri. After a roll call vote the Board voted unanimously to reschedule the meeting for November 29, 2022.

Mr. Anderson noted that committee meetings that would have been held on November 22, 2022, would be moved to November 29, 2022, as it is customary for the Complaint Committee to meet on the day of the Board meeting. Counsel Kinstler stated that an announcement regarding the date change must be provided on the Board's website. She further suggested that Director Bull confirm that litigation Counsel will be available to attend a Complaint Committee meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Kaderabek, and the Board unanimously voted, by a roll call vote, to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

**Signature On File**

**11/29/2022**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**John Bull**  
**Executive Director**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Signed on behalf of the Board as voted on and approved on November 29, 2022.**