

**STATE BOARD OF HEATING, VENTILATION, AIR-CONDITIONING, AND
REFRIGERATION CONTRACTORS
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

Date: January 11, 2023

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Place: The Board of HVACR meeting was held via teleconference (US +1 208-907-5480
PIN: 871 402 772#).

Members Present: **Brian Hamilton, Chair**, Master HVACR Contractor
Ezio Rebecchi, Master HVACR Contractor
Michael Giangrandi, Master HVACR Contractor
David Politzer, Consumer Member
Amadou Magazi, Master HVACR Contractor
Grant G. Gotlinger, Master Electrician

Members Absent: **Richard C. Ludlow**, Master Plumber

Staff Present: **John Bull**, Executive Director, Mechanic Licensing Boards
Kimberly Smith Ward, Assistant Attorney General
Sean Heeter, Administrative Officer
Sharon Harris-Friend, Complaint Specialist

Staff Absent: **Sloane Fried Kinstler**, Assistant Attorney General

Guests Present: **Sean Davis**, Food and Drug Administration
Greg Davis, Local 602
Stephanie Jordan, Al's Twin Air
Marjory Gains, Al's Twin Air
Sharmine Scott

Call to Order

Chairman Hamilton called the Business Meeting of the State Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration (“HVACR”) Contractors (“Board”) to order at 10:42 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Members of the Board reviewed the minutes of the Business Meeting held on September 14, 2022. Upon Mr. Giangrandi’s Motion and Mr. Magazi’s second, the motion was unanimously carried to approve the minutes without amendment or correction.

Complaint Committee Report

Ms. Harris-Friend addressed the Board to inform them that the Complaint Committee did not convene on October 12, 2022.

Application Review Committee

There were no applications to be reviewed.

Review of Examination Statistics and License Totals

Mr. Bull reported the following PSI exam statistical summaries for the month of September 2022:

	Candidates Tested	Passed	Failed	Pass %
Total	58	22	36	38%

Cumulative

Total	693	308	385	44%
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Testing to date

Total	11663	5087	6576	44%
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There are currently 20,320 active licensees.

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Bull addressed the Board and stated the February Board meeting will be held in person. He requested that if Board members will be in attendance in person to please email him prior to the meeting in order to ensure parking for all members in attendance. He stated that members can still attend virtually, but it is requested the Board meet in person. He also reminded the Board of the State’s Inclement Weather Policy. In the event of inclement weather and the state is closed on a date when a meeting is scheduled, the meeting will be canceled. If there is a two hour closure, there will be no complaint committee, but the scheduled Board meeting will take place. If there is liberal leave, the meeting will still take place as we have the ability to conduct it virtually. Lastly, Mr. Bull stated that he is finishing up with the reciprocity agreements for the Electrical Board, and after that is finalized, will begin working on the licensing standards and reciprocity for the HVACR and Plumbing Boards. He anticipates that taking place in March, 2023.

Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

New Business

There was no new business at this time.

Correspondence

Chairman Hamilton discussed Senate Bill 23 (“SB23”) that was brought before the Board during the December, 2022 Board meeting. Mr. Heeter stated the bill is posted on the legislature’s website for review and comment from the public. Chairman Hamilton reiterated the current law states a journeyman can perform work on their own and can supervise an apprentice, but with the current small labor pool this can cause a hardship to companies when trying to hire licensed journeyman. Chairman Hamilton asked the Board if anyone had any additional input, however there was no additional input from the Board.

Mr. Bull stated that there is a push across all of the Mechanical Licensing Boards to standardize the apprenticeship licensing. Mr. Gotlinger added that with the electrical bill that was enacted on July 1, 2022 and ended on December 31, 2022 there was a waiver allowing existing county license holders to reciprocate their license to the State Board of Electricians. He stated that there are not currently enough journeyman in the electrical industry and the waiver allowed more people to enter the work force and become licensed at the state level.

Mr. Bull stated the previous method for licensure for electricians was through the county jurisdictions, but with the new bill all electrical licensing is now at the state level, which was done through legislation that was submitted by the unions and passed by the Maryland General Assembly. The electrical licensing is now throughout the state, instead of individual county jurisdictions. Mr. Gotlinger asked if there is an apprentice to journeyman ratio for HVACR like there is for Electrical. Chairman Hamilton stated that only a journeyman can work on their own and that apprentices cannot perform any HVACR work on their own under any circumstance, but the state inspectors may require a specific ratio of apprentices to journeyman license holders. Mr. Gotlinger stated that for electricians it is a 3 to 1 ratio, meaning three apprentices can work under and be supervised by one journeyman. Chairman Hamilton stated that it has become difficult to hire journeyman license holders and that most of the hiring and training is for apprentices. Mr. Rebecchi stated that he concurs that the pool of qualified workers is small, and speaking from the ventilation side of the industry feels that there should be a 3 to 1 ratio, which has become difficult to hire qualified people within the field.

Counsel’s Report

Ms. Ward thanked the Board for allowing her to sit in on the meeting in Ms. Fried Kinstler’s absence.

Chairman’s Report

Chairman Hamilton stated that he has some ideas that have been discussed with Mr. Bull and Mr. Heeter so that the Board has an outline of goals for 2023. He stated that some things may tie into other Boards as well, but wanted to make the Board aware that we will be discussing Board business and goals during the February meeting.

Closed Session

The Board did not convene in closed session.

Adjournment

With no further business, upon Mr. Giangrandi’s Motion and Mr. Magazi’s second, the Board voted to adjourn the January 11, 2023, meeting of the State Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors at 11:08 a.m.

Signature on File

04/12/2023

John Bull
Executive Director

Date

Signed on behalf of the Board as voted and approved on 04/12/2023