

**STATE BOARD OF ELECTRICIANS  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** August 22, 2023  
**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  
Steven Petri Sr., Industry Member  
Francis Harrison, Consumer Member  
Walter “David” Irvin, Industry Member (\*joined late)  
William “Eric” Smith, Industry Member  
John Peterson, Consumer Member (\*\*left early)

**MEMBERS**

**ABSENT:** Donald Steinman, Industry Member

**STAFF**

**PRESENT:** John Bull, Executive Director, Mechanical Boards  
Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General  
Johnston Brown, Administrative Specialist III  
Danielle Anderson, Web and Outreach Coordinator, MD Dept. of Labor

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Jose Anderson, former Board member

**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 10:08 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Kaderabek moved to approve the July 25, 2023, meeting minutes without amendment. Mr. Petri seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Petri reported the following results of the Complaint Committee Meeting:

<b><u>Closed</u></b>	<b><u>Criminally Charged</u></b>	<b><u>Pre-Charge</u></b>
23-0021	23-0016	23-0004
23-0002	23-0017	23-0019
23-0012		

Mr. Petri stated that a licensee renewed his license without completing his CEU’s. The licensee will be fined \$250 and given 60 days to complete his 10 hours of CEU’s.

A Motion to accept the report of the Complaint Committee was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Kaderabek. The Board unanimously voted to approve the report of the Complaint Committee.

**APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

Vice Chairman Brown reported that six (6) master license applications were reviewed; he recommended that all six (6) should be approved.

Mr. Petri moved to accept the Application Review Committee report, which was seconded by Mr. Kaderabek. The Board unanimously voted to accept the Application Review Committee’s report.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDER REPORT**

None.

**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 July 2023:

<b>Exam Type</b>	<b>Tested</b>	<b>Passed</b>	<b>Failed</b>	<b>Pass Rate %</b>
Master Electrician	36	7	29	19%
Journeyman Electrician	6	3	3	50%
Total	42	10	32	24%

Lakisha Thornton reported the year-to-date totals of 2023, there were 325 candidates tested, with 88 passing and 237 failing, for a pass rate of 27%. Since the inception of the test, 7,262 exams candidates tested, with 2107 passing, and 5155 failing, for a pass rate of 29%.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to accept the examination statistics report; Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the report.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None to be considered.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Onsite Wastewater Management Update

Mr. Bull has not yet heard back from the Secretary's office with the approval to issue its letter to the Maryland Department of the Environment ("MDE"), pertaining to registration for Onsite Wastewater Management, to local jurisdictions. Mr. Bull has followed up with an email and is awaiting approval.

Mr. Bull reminded the Board members that he sent a letter to MDE on behalf of licensed electricians and plumbers requesting an exemption from the fee charged by MDE for an onsite wastewater management registration required to provide such services. Mr. Bull heard back from Adam Corry, on behalf of the Board of Onsite Wastewater Service Professionals, who stated that MDE has not constituted the Board yet so an exemption cannot be granted. Mr. Bull further stated that Mr. Corry indicated that he consulted with MDE upper management regarding the exemption request, and they are having some issues with it. Upper management stated there is nothing in the law that grants them the authority to grant a registration exemption. At this time, electricians and plumbers are required to pay the \$150 registration fee to obtain the registration required to provide wastewater management services until the MDE board is constituted.

\*Mr. Irvin joined the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

### Fee Increase Proposal Under COMAR 09.09.03.01

Mr. Bull sent a memo to the Board members, that provided a breakdown of current fees set forth under COMAR 09.09.01.03 and proposed fee increases. Mr. Bull explained that the Board has not raised its fees in 12 years, yet in that time, inflation has increased 23% and the Board's expenditures over the past few years have increased considerably with the implementation of statewide licensing. In fiscal year 2021, the Board ended up over \$70k in the red. In 2022, the Board finished the year a little over \$56k in the red. At present in 2023, the Board is operating at a deficit of least \$11,800.00. Mr. Bull continued that while all occupational and professional licensing boards will share equally in the cost of technology upgrades, the estimated costs of the upgrade and staffing requirements to accommodate the increased populations of license applicants, licensees, and active consumer complaints are anticipated to be considerable.

Mr. Bull explained that the mechanical licensing boards account for approximately 65k licensees. The occupation and professional licensing boards and commissions are limited by law to increase fees not more than 12.5% annually. § 2-106.2, Bus. Reg. Art., Md. Ann. Code. Consequently, Mr. Bull, with the approval of the Secretary of Labor, proposes two increases of 12.5% to be implemented in 2024 and in 2025. Mr. Bull also proposes three (3) additional fees: \$50 for a duplicate license; \$50 for letter of good standing; and \$25 for an original application fee.

Mr. Harrison moved to seek regulatory action to implement a 12.5% fee increase for 2024 and 2025; Mr. Irvin seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to increase fees over two (2) years.

Mr. Bull will provide to the Board members the calculation of fees and will make sure AAG Kinstler receives a copy as well, as Counsel will convert the figures to regulatory language that will come back to the Board in advance of the next meeting so the Board members can consider proposed action. Mr. Bull will also submit the proposed fee schedule to the Secretary's office to begin the process of the regulatory amendment.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The reciprocal licensing agreement with Virginia has been signed and is now in effect. The Board is working to set up reciprocal licensing for journeyman electricians from Virginia. Mr. Bull and Jay Brown will work with the IT Department to implement the process.

### **COUNSEL'S REPORT**

AAG Kinstler discussed, for the benefit of new Board members, the process of consideration of license application for an individual with a prior criminal history, including the Board's discretion and requirement to consider certain statutory factors before making a determination on an application.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chairman Brown has reached out to all the Board members regarding the interpretations of low-voltage services and the provision of electrical services. The Chair would like this matter to be included on the agenda for discussion at the October meeting. Board members can send documents or materials that they want to be part of the discussion for the next meeting to Jay Brown, he will put a packet together to send to all the Board members on this topic.

\*\*Mr. Peterson left the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

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

Mr. Harrison made a motion to convene in closed session, which Mr. Kaderabek seconded. The Board voted unanimously to convene in a closed session at 11:14 a.m.

The Board convened in closed session in compliance with § 3-305 to discuss and evaluate a license application for the purpose of evaluating a license application.

**License Application 01:**

Counsel Kinstler presented the application of a journey person applicant seeking a statutory license examination waiver who disclosed a prior criminal conviction in 2005 for first-degree assault which the individual was sentenced to incarceration for 25 years, with all time but 15 years suspended, followed by probation for five (5) years. In 2011, the applicant’s sentence was modified to incarceration for 25 years with all time suspended but 9 years and credit for time served; probation began in 2011. The Board considered that the applicant had failed to provide a letter of explanation requested of all applicants who answer “yes” to the conduct questions to the application or any other information in the support of the application.

Mr. Smith moved to require that the applicant supplement the application with an explanation of the applicant’s criminal offense and a letter from a current or recent employer within 60 days. Mr. Harrison seconded for the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of requiring the applicant to submit supplemental information before it could complete its consideration of the application.

The Board reconvened the business meeting at 11:33 a.m. after a motion made by Mr. Irvin and seconded by Mr. Smith to adjourn the closed session and return to the business meeting.

Mr. Petri moved to adopt the Board’s findings of the closed session of August 22, 2023, which Mr. Kaderabek seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve its findings from the closed session of August 22, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Smith, and unanimously carried by a vote of the Board to adjourn the August 22, 2023, business meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Signature on File

9/26/23

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

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

**Signed on behalf of the Board as voted and approved by the Board on: 9/26/23**