**STATE BOARD OF ELECTRICIANS**

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** July 22, 2025

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**PLACE:** 100 South Charles Street, Tower 1

 2nd floor, Cherry Hill Conference Room

 Baltimore, MD 21201

 Via Google Meet Video and Teleconference + 321-465-5183; PIN: 457 489 090#

**MEMBERS** **PRESENT:** Chet Brown, Chair, Industry Member

 Walter "Dave" Irvin, Industry Member

 Donald Steinman, Industry Member

 William "Eric" Smith, Industry Member

 Amadou Magazi, Industry Member

 Matthew Poch, Consumer Member

 Leaurdra Raye, Industry Member

**MEMBERS** **ABSENT:** Greg Kaderabek, Vice Chair, Consumer Member

John Peterson, Consumer Member

**STAFF** **PRESENT:** Charles Marquette, Executive Director

Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General

 Tashera Savage, Administrative Officer I

**OTHERS** **PRESENT:** Abraham Gibbs, electrician

**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 10:05 a.m.

New member, Joshua Gregory, was introduced and welcomed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve June 24, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Mr. Steinman, seconded by Mr. Smith, and unanimously approved by the Board.

**COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Smith reported the findings of the Complaint Committee as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Closed Complaint** | **Under Investigation** | **Sent for A.G. Pre-Charge** | **Criminally Charged** |
| 25-0024 |  |   |  |
| 25-0025 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 25-0012 |  |
|  | 25-0019 |  |  |

Upon a motion by Mr. Irvin, and a second by Mr. Steinman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Complaint Committee report.

**APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Brown reported that the Board received 13 applications for a license examination. Out of the reviewed applications, eleven (11) master applications were reviewed, three (3) were accepted, four (4) were denied, and four (4) are pending additional information. Two (2) journeyperson applications were received, and both are pending awaiting supplemental information.

Upon a motion by Mr. Steinman and a second by Mr. Smith, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Application Review Committee report.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDER COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Steinman reported the following continuing education providers for the Board’s review. After discussion, the Board approved the provider below with a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Irvin, and unanimously carried:

Provider Name: Abraham Gibbs

Ms. Savage informed Mr. Steinman that there was an additional provider previously approved. Mr. Steinman located and presented the following:

Provider Name: Michael Lennon

Title: Training and Development Specialist

A motion by Mr. Irvin, seconded by Mr. Smith, and a unanimous vote by the Board approved the full continuing education report.

**EXAM CHALLENGES REPORT**

No exam challenges were submitted; no report was necessary.

**VOICE/DATA/VIDEO COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Brown indicated that there were no updates at this time.

**REVIEW OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS AND LICENSE TOTALS**

For the month of June PSI exams submitted the following statistical summary:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Exam Type** |  **Tested** | **Passed** | **Failed** | **Pass Rate %** |
| Master Electrician | 56 | 15 | 41 | 27% |
| Journeyperson Electrician | 32 | 10 | 22 | 31% |
| Total | 88 | 25 | 63 | 28% |

Ms. Savage reported that since January 2025, 495 candidates were tested, 141 passed, 354 failed, for a pass rate of 28%. Since the inception of the exam, 8,759 candidates were tested, 2,508 passed, 6,251 failed, for a pass rate of 29%.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Savage reported that a member of the Board submitted a written notice of retirement and intent to resign. In the correspondence, the member indicated they had lost access to their professional email following retirement. They also noted a current medical issue and expressed that, given these circumstances, it would be in the best interest of the Board if the member formally resigns from the Maryland State Board of Electricians. The member requested guidance on the appropriate procedure to complete the resignation process.

There was no other correspondence to be considered.

**OLD BUSINESS**

COMAR 09.09.09.03- NEC code adoption

Counsel Kinstler informed the Board that final action of the Board’s regulation to adopt the 2020 edition of the National Electrical Code (NEC) as adopted by the Division of Labor & Industry was published on July 11, 2025 and became effective on July 21, 2025.

Wastewater Presentation

Chairman Brown informed the Board that Director Marquette has distributed Mr. Harrison’s Wastewater Presentation Report to the local jurisdictions.

Reciprocity

* Washington D.C.

Director Marquette informed the Board that reciprocity with Washington, D.C. is now in place. D.C. has issued an announcement to its licensees notifying them of the agreement. The reciprocity agreement applies to Master Electricians and Journeypersons by exam only. Although D.C. accepts Certificates of Completion from the State of Maryland for Journeyperson licenses, this provision was not included in the agreement, as it was already an existing policy.

Director Marquette also informed the Board that he has contacted D.C. regarding Maryland’s Letter of Good Standing. He explained that for applicants who took a Maryland county exam prior to the implementation of statewide licensing, the letter indicates “Passed – MD County Exam,” which D.C. initially did not accept. However, discussions are now underway between Director Marquette and D.C. officials to have the letter accepted under the new agreement as the exams are deemed substantially equivalent.

* Delaware

Director Marquette explained that while Delaware does not enter into traditional reciprocity agreements, it uses a substantial equivalency determination process to assess other states’ qualifications. Delaware has reviewed and approved Maryland’s qualifications for the Master Electrician license, and the license is currently being recognized.

For the Journeyperson license, Delaware has found Maryland’s requirements—8,000 hours of supervised experience under a Master Electrician and either passing an exam or completing a registered apprenticeship—to be substantially equivalent. As a result, Delaware-licensed Journeypersons may apply for a Maryland license under the same standards.

Counsel Kinstler advised that, since Delaware does not wish to enter a formal agreement, Director Marquette should draft a letter confirming the existing reciprocal licensing terms for Master and Journeyperson electricians based on current conditions. Ms. Kinstler recommended sending it to Delaware for acknowledgment and including it with the Board’s other reciprocity records to satisfy statutory requirements.

Mr. Smith moved to approve reciprocal licensing with Delaware. Mr. Irvin seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved Delaware’s determination of Maryland’s qualifications as substantially equivalent for reciprocal licensing and agreed to reciprocate Delaware’s licensing accordingly.

Mr. Smith moved to have the Board request that Director Marquette proceed with sending a confirmation letter verifying the terms of reciprocal licensing as agreed to between Maryland and Delaware. Mr. Irvin seconded the motion; which the Board unanimously passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Board Positions

Due to a recent vacancy on the Complaint Committee and the departure of several Board members, new Board positions and committee assignments were made.

Mr. Poch volunteered to join the Complaint Committee.

Upon a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Steinman, the Board unanimously approved Mr. Poch’s appointment to the committee. Chairman Brown appointed Mr. Smith as Chair of the Complaint Committee, and Mr. Smith accepted the assignment.

Mr. Smith moved to re-establish the Complaint Committee with members Brown, Smith, and Poch. Mr. Steinman seconded the motion, which the Board passed unanimously.

Officer Elections

Mr. Smith moved to nominate Chairman Brown to continue serving as Chairman of the Board. Chairman Brown accepted the nomination. With a second from Mr. Steinman, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Irvin expressed interest in serving as Vice Chairman. A motion to approve his appointment was made by Mr. Steinman, seconded by Mr. Poch, and unanimously approved by the Board.

Introduction of New Members

Earlier in the meeting, the new Board member, Matthew Poch, introduced himself as a Baltimore native, attorney, and veteran. He expressed his enthusiasm for joining the Board.

New member, Leaurdra Raye, also introduced herself as a Master Electrician and business owner who services multiple counties. She shared her excitement about joining the Maryland State Board of Electricians.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Marquette reported that the Department of Labor will begin issuing licensing compliance notices this week to all master, journeyman, and apprentice license holders. These will remind licensees to ensure both their own credentials and those of workers on-site are appropriate for the work being performed. Similar notices will continue throughout the year to support compliance with licensing and other regulatory requirements. Director Marquette also announced that starting in August, all board meetings will be recorded and transcribed internally via Google Meet. These recordings will be for internal use only and will not be made public. Closed sessions will not be recorded, and minutes will continue to be taken by staff.

**COUNSEL’S REPORT**

Counsel clarified that the decision to record board meetings was made in response to concerns raised by current members of O&P boards. Specifically, there was apprehension that members of the public could record meetings and potentially alter the content using AI or other software. To ensure the accuracy and integrity of meeting proceedings, the Department will record meetings to serve as the official record, if needed.

Counsel also informed the Board that it would be necessary to enter a closed session to review the application of an individual with a prior criminal conviction, as required under professional licensing standards. The closed session is authorized under Maryland General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(2) and (7), allowing the board to protect the applicant’s privacy and reputation and to receive legal advice regarding pending and potential litigation.

**CHAIR’S REPORT**

Chairman Brown did not offer a report.

**CLOSED SESSION**

A motion to enter closed session was made by Mr. Irvin, seconded by Mr. Smith, and unanimously approved by the Board. The Board entered closed session at 11:04 a.m.

The purpose of the closed session was to review an application for an original Apprentice Electrician license submitted by an applicant who disclosed prior felony convictions. The Board considered the nature of the offenses, time served, current probation status, and the applicant’s efforts toward rehabilitation, including employment history, participation in recovery programs, and demonstrated sobriety.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to request additional information regarding the applicant’s employment and verification of claims made before making a final decision.

A motion was made by Ms. Raye, seconded by Mr. Steinman, and unanimously approved to request reference documentation to support the applicant’s statements. The application will be revisited at a future meeting upon receipt of the requested materials.

The Board reconvened the Business Meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Mr. Irvin moved to adopt the findings from the closed session, seconded by Mr. Steinman, and unanimously approved by the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, which Mr. Irvin seconded, by Mr. Irvin, and unanimously approved by the Board at 11:19 a.m.

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**Charles Marquette, Executive Director Date**

**Mechanical Boards**

**As voted and approved by the Board on: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**