



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

Date: December 11, 2024

Time: 10:30 a.m.

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

Members Present: **Michael Giangrandi, Chairman**, Master HVACR Contractor
Michael Weglarz, Master Electrician
Amadou Magazi, Master HVACR Contractor
Winfield “Rocky” Jones, Master Plumber Member
David Politzer, Consumer Member
Dwight Needham, Master HVACR Contractor
Amir A. Kabir, (joined at 10:51am)

Members Absent: **Lawrence Kitching, Vice Chair**, Master HVACR Contractor

Staff Present: **Todd Blackistone**, Acting Executive Director, Mechanical Licensing Unit
Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General
LaKissha Thornton, Administrative Officer, Mechanical Licensing Unit
William Gross, Administrative Officer, Mechanical Licensing Unit

Others Present: **Sarah McDermott**, Deputy Commissioner, Occupational and Professional Licensing, MD Dept. of Labor
Matthew McKinney, Office of the Commissioner, Occupational and Professional Licensing, MD Dept. of Labor

Guests Present: **None**

Call to Order

Chairman Giangrandi called the Business Meeting of the State Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration (“HVACR”) Contractors (“Board”) to order at 10:38 a.m.

Mr. Jones moved to adopt the December 2024 meeting agenda. Mr. Weglarz seconded the motion; by a roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved the meeting agenda.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Weglarz to approve the business meeting minutes of the November 13, 2024, HVACR Board meeting without amendment or correction. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jones and, by a roll call vote, unanimously approved by the Board.

Complaint Committee Report

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

<u>Closed Complaint</u>	<u>Under Investigation</u>	<u>Sent for A.G. Pre-Charge</u>	<u>Criminally Charged</u>
23-0058			
24-0057			
25-0024			

A motion to approve the findings of the Complaint Committee was made by Mr. Magazi, seconded by Mr. Jones, and, by a roll call vote, unanimously approved by the Board.

Application Review Committee

Mr. Magazi reported that there were no applications submitted; no Application Review Committee report was necessary.

Review of Examination Statistics and License Totals

LaKissha Thornton reported the following PSI exam statistical summaries for the month November 2024:

	Candidates Tested	Passed	Failed	Pass Rate %
November 2024				
Total	55	22	33	40%

Cumulative- YTD				
Total	574	218	356	38%

Testing to date				
Total	12937	5579	7358	43%

There are currently 21,658 active licensees.

Correspondence

Ms. Thornton informed the Board that correspondence from two applicants had been submitted. One applicant, whose license expired July 13, 2019, and the other applicant, whose license expired October 1, 2011, are requesting the reinstatement of their licenses by paying fees without having to retest after satisfying tax lien bills.

Mr. Blackstone advised the Board of a pending bill in the 2025 legislative session, NDL15, pertaining to HVACR license restoration. The bill would amend the renewal period from 90 days to 4 years. Counsel reminded the Board that it had discussed this legislation proposal with Board staff several months ago and that the change would bring the Board into line with other occupational licensing boards, particularly the Mechanical Boards, that allow an extended grace period of between two (2) to Four (4) year to renew or reinstate a lapsed license without having to retest. Counsel further advised the Board that, in her experience, this Board has never insisted that an individual retest if they had been working in the industry outside of the state for some time and allowed their license to lapse before returning to the state to work, or unless the Board was concerned that the individual's industry knowledge could become stale over time.

Mr. Blackstone advised that other occupational licensing boards, such as home inspectors and real estate appraisers, allow five (5) years and three (3) years, respectively, in which to reinstate a license. He suggested that a four-year requirement would not be out of the ordinary. Mr. McKinney added that it is expected that this will be a Departmental bill presented in the 2025 legislative session. He asked if the Board would be interested in submitting a letter of support for the bill, as well as any industry members of whom the Board may be aware who would submit a letter of support for the legislation. Deputy Commissioner McDermott added she can help with the language for the support letters.

New HVACR Board member, Mr. Ahmed Kabir, a consumer member, with knowledge of the electrical industry, joins the meeting at 10:51 a.m. and introductions with all the standing Board members, staff, and Counsel were made.

Old Business

There was no Old Business to be discussed.

New Business

Chairman Giangrandi raised the matter of establishing a Code Update Committee. He Counsel how many members she thought ought to be on the Committee. Counsel suggested at least two industry members, advised the Board that it could have more members if it would be helpful, but the number must be less than a quorum of the Board. Mr. Jones asked about the duties of the Committee members. Counsel advised that the Code Update Committee should review the draft regulation provided by Counsel to adopt the most recent version of the codes, including whether to continue to adopt the codes as they are amended each code cycle or including language to adopt the codes without having update the edition every code cycle. Counsel advised the Board about existing Code modification provisions that would have to be amended or repealed. Counsel recommended that the Code Update Committee review the current editions of the codes that are in place as well as the editions of those codes to be adopted and make determinations as to whether the modifications are still necessary, whether new modifications are necessary, or whether such modifications are no longer necessary.

Mr. Jones asked how the Committee would meet. Counsel advised that a committee would meet outside of the Board meeting and they could choose to meet in person or remotely. Committee meetings or a group that is less than a quorum is not subject to the Open Meetings Act and are not generally open to the public. The Committee would be expected to make recommendations to the Board regarding how to proceed during a public meeting. Mr. Jones and Mr. Giangrandi volunteer to

serve on the Committee with a position being held for Mr. Kitching if he accepts and to be extended by Chairman Giangrandi.

Mr. Jones moved the establish a Code Update Committee with Mr. Jones, Mr. Giangrandi, and Mr. Kitching, if he accepts. The motion was seconded by Mr. Neeham and, by a roll call vote, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Executive Director’s Report

Acting Executive Director reported that he had emailed the Board members sample language for a support letter for the restoration bill, NDL15 and reminded the Board that a letter could be issued on behalf of the full Board and by individual Board members if they so wished.

Mr. Jones moved to have Chairman Giangrandi issue a letter of support on behalf of the Board for proposed legislation, NDL15, pertaining to HVACR license modification. Mr. Weglarz seconded the motion; by a roll call vote, the Board approved the motion by a majority vote, with all members voting in favor except Mr. Ahmed, who abstained, for Chairman Giangrandi to sign and submit a letter on behalf of the Board to Mr. McKinney.

Acting Executive Director Blackiston wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Counsel’s Report

Counsel did not offer a report but did wish everyone happy holidays and again welcomed Mr. Ahmed to the Board.

Chairman’s Report

The Chairman did not provide a report, but did wish everyone Happy Holidays.

Adjournment

With no further business, upon Mr. Weglarz motion and Mr. Magazi’s second, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the December 11, 2024, meeting of the State Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Contractors at 11:28 a.m.

Todd Blackistone
Interim Executive Director

Date

Signed on behalf of the Board as voted on and approved on _____