

**STATE BOARD OF ELECTRICIANS
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: September 26, 2023
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Via Google Meet Video and Teleconference + 321-465-5183
PIN: 457 489 090#

MEMBERS

PRESENT: 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: Chet Brown, Chairman
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: Matt McKinney, Director of Strategic Initiatives

CALL TO ORDER:

After a roll call to establish a quorum, Vice Chair Kaderabek called the Business Meeting of the Maryland State Board of Electricians to Order at 10:04 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Petri moved to approve the August 22, 2023, meeting minutes without amendment. Mr. Irvin seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT

None.

APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Bull presented Chairman Brown’s report. The Board received three applications that were accepted for the master license examination. No journeyman license examination applications were received.

Mr. Harrison moved to accept the recommendations of the Application Review Committee. Mr. Irvin offered a second to the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDER REPORT

The report was tabled due to Mr. Steinman’s absence.

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 August 2023:

Exam Type	Tested	Passed	Failed	Pass Rate %
Master Electrician	40	10	30	25%
Journeyman Electrician	11	1	10	9%
Total	51	11	40	22%

Executive Director Bull reported the year-to-date totals of 2023, **Masters:** there were 316 candidates tested, with 84 passing and 232 failing, for a pass rate of 27%. **Journey:** 60 candidates tested, with 15 passing and 45 failing, for a pass rate of 25%.

Overall year to date, 376 candidates were tested, with 99 passing and 277 failing for a pass rate of 26%. The cumulative since the inception of the test, for **Masters:** 6,968 with 2,042 passing and 4,926 failing with a pass rate of 29%. **Journey:** 345 with 76 passing and 269 failing with a pass rate of 22%, for a total of 7,313 exams, 2,118 passing 5,195 failing for a pass rate of 29%

CORRESPONDENCE

None to be considered.

OLD BUSINESS

Onsite Wastewater Management Update

Mr. Bull submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) the Board's request for a fee waiver for the onsite wastewater management registration. Mr. Bull contacted Mr. Correy, who represents the Onsite Wastewater Commission. Mr. Correy submitted the Board's request to MDE management officials and reported that they do not believe they have legal authority to exempt or waive the registration fee. Mr. Bull and Board Counsel will discuss what, if any, options the Board may have moved forward. Board Counsel offered to contact Counsel to the Onsite Wastewater Management authority to discuss support for their position and interpretation of applicable requirements or whether there might be applicable language to provide discretion for a fee waiver. Board Counsel will report back at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Harrison commented that he intended for his Onsite Wastewater Management presentation to be directed to local jurisdictions. Mr. Bull responded that the Board has not heard back from the Secretary's office with approval to distribute Mr. Harrison's presentation to local jurisdictions, as they are preparing for the start of the legislative session. Mr. Bull will update the Board when he receives the response from the Office of the Secretary.

Fee Increase Proposal Under COMAR 09.09.03.01

Mr. Bull shared a document with the Board setting forth the language and specific charges and amounts for the regulation to increase Board fees by 12.5% for 2024 and 2025. This language once approved by the Board, will go to the Secretary's office to approve the Board moving forward with proposed action. Mr. Bull explained the work involved in preparing a Letter of Good Standing and requested a fee of \$50 for such a letter, which the Board approved. Mr. Bull explained that the Letter of Good Standing fee would not be increased for 2025.

Mr. Petri moved that the Board take proposed action to amend COMAR 09.09.03.01. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Smith. The Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Low Voltage

The discussion on low voltage will be deferred to the October meeting when Chairman Brown is expected to be present.

Joint Mechanical Board Chairs' Meeting

Mr. Bull updated the Board on the September 8, 2023, meeting of the joint mechanical board chairs, which also included the Elevator Safety Review Board. One of the topics discussed was the Onsite Wastewater Management issue and its impact on multiple boards. Other topics were also discussed. The group determined that all the Board Chairs and Vice Chairs thought a joint meeting is a good idea, but suggested future meetings be scheduled as topic(s) may arise that may affect multiple boards and that only the boards potentially impacted would need to participate.

The group did discuss a concern about electricians and HVAC personnel going into elevator pits without performing proper "lockout tag outs" to prevent the elevator from moving while someone is in the pit. The Elevator Safety Review Boards is putting together a safety brochure geared towards occupational professionals who may have a reason for occupying the pits, once the brochure is

completed it will be distributed out to the various professions and will be presented at the Electrical Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

District of Columbia Reciprocity

Mr. Bull received feedback from the District of Columbia that they want to consider reciprocal licensing for all mechanical boards, i.e., electrical, plumbing, HVACR, together. Mr. Bull will review District of Columbia electrician licensing requirements to determine whether they are substantially equivalent to Maryland for master and the journeyman licensure and will report to the Board whether reciprocal licensing is feasible. He suggested that, at that point, the Board may want to form a committee to determine and recommend acceptable terms for a reciprocal licensing agreement with the District of Columbia.

Board Appointments

Mr. Bull explained that Chairman Brown and Mr. Peterson will both have termed out by June 30, 2024. Mr. Harrison's time has expired but he has been a holdover pending replacement; Mr. Smith is in his first term, but he is completing an existing term, so he will have to be reappointed during the upcoming legislative session. Matt McKinney, Director of Strategic Initiatives, joined the meeting to further discuss the appointments of the Board members. He stated that he will meet with the Commissioner regarding appointments expected to be made during the session.

COUNSEL'S REPORT

None.

CHAIR'S REPORT

None.

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. Smith seconded. The Board voted unanimously to convene in a closed session at 10:35 a.m.

License Application 01:

Counsel Kinstler presented the application of a journeyman license applicant who had disclosed a prior criminal conviction in 2016 for voluntary manslaughter, a felony, and use of a handgun in crime of violence, a misdemeanor, for which the individual was sentenced to incarceration for 10 years with all but five (5) years suspended for the manslaughter conviction and 20 years, with all but five (5) years suspended for the handgun offense. The applicant's court-ordered supervision is scheduled to terminate in the next few months. The applicant submitted verification of work experience; and a

letter from an employer verifying the applicant’s employment and performance. The applicant also submitted a letter of explanation regarding the incident. The Board determined that the applicant had demonstrated the required work experience for a journeyperson license.

Mr. Petri moved to approve the license application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith. The Board voted unanimously to approve the journeyperson license application.

License Application 02:

Counsel Kinstler presented the application of an apprentice license applicant who disclosed a prior criminal conviction in 2007 and another in 2013, both for possession with intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance, a felony. The applicant was sentenced to incarceration for 15 years in 2007 and 40 years with 20 years suspended in 2013, followed by probation for three (3) years. The applicant was released on parole and probation on September 1, 2021, after serving.

The applicant submitted a letter of explanation detailing the incident and multiple letters of recommendation. While in prison, the applicant participated in several programs and is now on the leadership council for the applicant’s place of worship. The applicant is raising his 10-year-old child.

Mr. Harrison moved to approve the license application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Irvin, and unanimously passed.

By a motion by Mr. Harrison and a second by Mr. Peterson, the Board voted to adjourn the closed session and reconvene the business meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Mr. Harrison moved to adopt the Board’s findings of the closed session of September 26, 2023, which Mr. Irvin seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve its findings from the closed session of September 26, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Petri, seconded by Mr. Peterson, and unanimously carried by a vote of the Board to adjourn the September 26, 2023, business meeting at 11:03 a.m.

Signature On File

10/24/23

John Bull
Executive Director

Date

As voted and approved by the Board on: 10/24/23