



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 25-165: LICENSURE OF ELECTRICIANS

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Pelton B.; Daugherty

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Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill updates electrician licensing, apprenticeship, photovoltaic installation oversight, and professional regulation requirements.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- State Revenue
- State Expenditures
- TABOR Refunds

Appropriations. For FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of \$161,273 to the Department of Regulatory Agencies.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts**

| Type of Impact ¹ | Budget Year FY 2025-26 | Out Year FY 2026-27 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| State Revenue | \$188,800 | \$504,000 |
| State Expenditures | \$188,792 | \$168,246 |
| Transferred Funds | \$0 | \$0 |
| Change in TABOR Refunds | \$188,800 | \$504,000 |
| Change in State FTE | 1.5 FTE | 1.4 FTE |

¹ Fund sources for these impacts are shown in the tables below.

**Table 1A
State Revenue**

| Fund Source | Budget Year FY 2025-26 | Out Year FY 2026-27 |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| General Fund | \$0 | \$0 |
| Cash Funds | \$188,800 | \$504,000 |
| Total Revenue | \$188,800 | \$504,000 |

**Table 1B
State Expenditures**

| Fund Source | Budget Year FY 2025-26 | Out Year FY 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| General Fund | \$0 | \$0 |
| Cash Funds | \$161,273 | \$140,263 |
| Federal Funds | \$0 | \$0 |
| Centrally Appropriated | \$27,519 | \$27,983 |
| Total Expenditures | \$188,792 | \$168,246 |
| Total FTE | 1.5 FTE | 1.4 FTE |

Summary of Legislation

The bill updates electrician licensing, apprenticeship, photovoltaic installation oversight, and professional regulation requirements under the Electricians' Practice Act, which is administered by the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA).

Licensing Requirements

Current law requires DORA to accept academic training as a substitute for practical experience in license application decisions. The bill makes this substitution permissive, and includes photovoltaic (PV) system installation training as an additional replacement for practical experience.

Additionally, the bill clarifies the amount of required apprenticeship or practical experience necessary for licensure. Applicants for a journeyman electrician's license may have four years or 8,000 hours of required time, with at least half incurred in commercial, industrial, or substantially similar work. Applicants for a residential wireman's license may have two years or 4,000 hours of apprenticeship or practical experience.

Apprenticeships

For the purposes of reporting qualifying apprenticeship time, the bill requires employers and program administrators to report time spent on commercial or industrial work for apprentices with an active residential wireman’s license. Under current law, apprentices are required to take the journeyman electrician license examination at least as often as the license renewal cycle until a passing score is achieved. The bill exempts apprentices with an active residential wireman’s or master electrician’s license from this requirement.

Regulatory Changes

DORA is required to uphold the rules and regulations of the current edition of the National Electrical Code in its entirety. All electrical equipment is subject to inspection by authorities with jurisdiction to perform electrical inspections. Regarding PV systems, the bill makes the following regulatory changes:

- requires a PV energy practitioner performing on-site supervision of PV installations to be employed by a PV installer;
- removes language that exempted the Public Utilities Commission and utilities from monitoring or enforcing compliance with PV installation requirements, and that required retail utilities to obtain and retain certain documentation regarding PV installations;
- updates definitions for PV electrical work and PV installer;
- specifies that PV electrical work is subject to electrical permitting requirements, contemporaneous review, and compliance checks; and
- requires PV installers to register with DORA by December 31, 2025.

State Revenue

Starting in FY 2025-26, the bill increases state revenue to the Division of Profession and Occupations Cash Fund in DORA by about \$190,000 for FY 2025-26 and about \$500,000 in FY 2026-27, as shown in Table 2 and discussed below.

Table 2
Fee Impact on PV Installers

| Fiscal Year | Type of Fee | Estimated Fee | Number Affected | Total Fee Impact |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| FY 2025-26 | PV Installer Registration | \$236.00 | 800 | \$188,800 |
| FY 2026-27 | PV Installer Registration | \$630.00 | 900 | \$504,000 |

Fee Impact on PV Installers

Colorado law requires legislative service agency review of measures which create or increase any fee collected by a state agency. In FY 2025-26, DORA will collect initial registration fees from an estimated 800 PV installers. These fees are estimated at \$236 to cover the first year of administrative costs. Beginning in FY 2026-27 and every three years thereafter, the department will renew PV installer registrations to match other electrical license cycles. This fee is estimated at \$630 to cover three years of administrative costs. These fee amounts are estimates only, actual fees will be set administratively by DORA based on cash fund balance, program costs, and the number of registrations subject to the fee.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in DORA by about \$190,000 in FY 2025-26 and about \$170,000 in FY 2026-27 and future years. These costs, paid from the Division of Professions and Occupations Cash Fund, are summarized in Table 3 and discussed below.

**Table 3
 State Expenditures
 Department of Regulatory Agencies**

| Cost Component | Budget Year FY 2025-26 | Out Year FY 2026-27 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Personal Services | \$108,894 | \$113,890 |
| Operating Expenses | \$1,792 | \$1,792 |
| Capital Outlay Costs | \$6,670 | \$0 |
| Legal Services | \$17,386 | \$0 |
| Inspector Equipment | \$4,840 | \$4,390 |
| Vehicle Costs | \$21,691 | \$20,191 |
| Centrally Appropriated Costs | \$27,519 | \$27,983 |
| FTE – Personal Services | 1.4 FTE | 1.4 FTE |
| FTE – Legal Services | 0.1 FTE | 0.0 FTE |
| Total Costs | \$188,792 | \$168,246 |
| Total FTE | 1.5 FTE | 1.4 FTE |

Staff

DORA requires 1.6 FTE in FY 2025-26 to register PV installers, conduct additional and more complex electrical inspections, and handle any complaints or disciplinary actions. Of this amount, 0.2 FTE is for FY 2025-26 only to set up registrations for PV installers. The remaining 1.4 FTE represents inspection and complaint staff, and is prorated for a September 1, 2025 start date.

Legal Services

For FY 2025-26 only, 130 hours of legal services are required for rulemaking, assistance with complaints and disciplinary actions, and general legal advice regarding implementation of the bill. Legal services are provided by the Department of Law at a blended rate of \$133.74 per hour.

Inspector Equipment and Vehicle Costs

In addition to standard operating and capital outlay costs, inspection staff requires equipment and a vehicle to conduct inspections. Costs decrease in future years to reflect the removal of one-time costs in FY 2025-26.

Centrally Appropriated Costs

Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which may include employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, leased space, and indirect cost assessments, are shown in the expenditure table(s) above.

TABOR Refunds

The bill is expected to increase the amount of state revenue required to be refunded to taxpayers by the amounts shown in the Table 1 above. This estimate assumes the December 2024 LCS revenue forecast. A forecast of state revenue subject to TABOR is not available beyond FY 2026-27. Because TABOR refunds are paid from the General Fund, increased cash fund revenue will reduce the amount of General Fund available to spend or save.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of \$161,273 from the Division of Professions and Occupations Cash Fund to the Department of Regulatory Agencies, and 1.4 FTE. Of this amount, \$17,386 is reappropriated to the Department of Law, with an additional 0.1 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| Judicial | Regulatory Agencies |
| Labor | Transportation |
| Law | |

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).