



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB16-1073

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 16-0305 **Date:** January 25, 2016
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Duran; DelGrosso **Bill Status:** House Business Affairs and Labor
 Sen. Guzman; Scheffel **Fiscal Analyst:** Erin Reynolds (303-866-4146)

BILL TOPIC: ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY SAFETY AND TRAINING ACT

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal workload impact and potential cost increases.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		
Future Year Impacts: None.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates new requirements, effective January 1, 2018, for individuals applying for a renewal of a master electrician, journeyman electrician, or residential wireman license through the Division of Professions and Occupations (DPO) in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). Renewal applicants will be required to complete 24 hours of continuing education rather than passing a competency assessment. The State Electrical Board must adopt rules establishing continuing education requirements and standards by April 1, 2017.

The bill also requires any electrical inspection performed for a local government or qualified state institution of higher education to include a contemporaneous review. The review must ensure that all electricians working onsite are properly licensed, and that all electrical apprentices working onsite are performing the appropriate work and are properly registered and supervised. To that end, the bill requires local building departments and higher education institutions to develop standard procedures for electrical inspectors conducting contemporaneous reviews and to post these procedures on the organization's public website.

Background

Continued competency assesses an electrician's ability to perform certain tasks measured through professional development units. In contrast, continuing education is a requirement that an electrician attend a qualifying course or seminar that covers a professional development topic. Under continuing competency, an electrician demonstrating competency can "test-out" of the requirement by demonstrating skill, whereas continuing education is mandatory. Both continued competency and continuing education are provided by a third-party vendor, rather than DORA. As a point of fact, as of January 2016, there were about 13,600 licensed electricians in Colorado.

State Expenditures

This bill will minimally increase workload in DORA and may minimally increase costs in state agencies that employ electricians.

The State Electrical Board under DORA is expected to have a minimal workload increase to conduct rulemaking to implement a continuing education program that adheres to the criteria in the bill. To the extent that the board will be required to hold additional hearings at the local government and state higher education institution level, the board will incur additional expenses, but this impact is expected to be minimal and can be absorbed within existing workloads and appropriations. It is assumed the continuing education program will not differ greatly from the continuing competency requirement already in place in its administrative requirements, so the DPO will only be required to update its outreach material and website to reflect changes in renewal and reinstatement requirements; this effort can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

State agencies that employ electricians may incur training, travel, and course costs that pay for their electricians' continuing education. Many agencies already require their electricians to complete continuing education courses, therefore, this impact is expected to be absorbed within the existing appropriations of any affected agency.

Local Government Impact

About 15 counties, many municipalities, and most home rule jurisdictions currently conduct their own electrical inspections; the state conducts the rest. In the affected local governments, workload will increase in building departments to develop contemporaneous review standards and post those on the jurisdiction's website. Similarly, workload will increase to conduct the contemporaneous reviews.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	Higher Education	Local Affairs
Municipalities	Personnel	Regulatory Agencies

Research Note Available

An LCS Research Note for HB 16-1073 is available online and through the iLegislate app. Research notes provide additional policy and background information about the bill and summarize action taken by the General Assembly concerning the bill.