



Legislative Council Staff
Research Note

Version: Final
Date: 5/2/2016

Bill Number

House Bill 16-1073

Sponsors

*Representatives Duran &
DelGrosso
Senators Guzman & Scheffel*

Short Title

*Electrical Industry Safety And
Training Act*

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill. The bill became effective April 15, 2016.

Summary

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 (board) must adopt rules establishing continuing education requirements and standards by April 1, 2017.

The bill also requires any electrical inspection performed by the board, 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 the board, local building departments, and higher education institutions to develop standard procedures for electrical inspectors conducting contemporaneous reviews and to post these procedures on its public website.

Background

Colorado law requires all individuals who engage in electrical work to be licensed by the DPO within DORA prior to performing any electrical work. Current Colorado law also requires any individual applying for a renewal of an electrician license through DORA to demonstrate competency through an assessment of competency.

As of January 2016, there were a total of 13,611 licensed electricians in Colorado, excluding electrical contractors. These include:

- 5,266 master electrician licenses;
- 7,832 journeyman electrician licenses; and
- 513 residential wireman licenses.

The Colorado State Electrical Board was created in 1959 and is responsible for licensing, registering, and regulating electricians, apprentices, and electrical contractors in the state of Colorado. The board is also responsible for providing electrical inspections in areas of the state where local inspection authorities are not providing such inspections. The board consists of nine members, including:

- two electrical contractors with master electrician licenses;
- two master or journeyman electricians who are not electrical contractors;
- one representative of a private, municipal, or cooperative electric utility that provides electric service to the public;
- one building official who performs electrical inspections;
- one general contractor; and
- two members of the public.

House Action

House Business Affairs and Labor Committee (January 26, 2016). At the hearing, representatives from the Associated Builders and Contractors Rocky Mountain Chapter, Dynalectric Colorado, the National Electrical Contractors Association, Encore Electric, Independent Electrical Contractors and one private citizen testified in support of the bill. A representative from the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado testified in opposition to the bill.

The committee adopted amendments L.001, L.002, and L.004, and referred the bill, as amended, to the House Committee of the Whole. Amendment L.001 specified that inspections performed by the board must include a contemporaneous review and that the board must develop standard procedures for electrical inspectors conducting contemporaneous reviews and post these procedures on its public website. Amendment L.002 specified that a contemporaneous review does not need to occur for every inspection of a project, but a building department's procedures must preserve an inspector's ability to verify licensure compliance at any time. Amendment L.004 specified that before June 1, 2017, DORA may not renew an electrician's license unless the applicant has passed a competency assessment.

House second reading (February 3, 2016). The House adopted the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee report, as amended by amendment No. 2, which replaced the term "building department" with "entity." The House passed the bill on second reading, as amended.

House third reading (February 4, 2016). The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

Senate Action

Senate Business, Labor, and Technology Committee (March 21, 2016). At the hearing, representatives from Dynalectric, the National Electrical Contractors Association, Associated Builders and Contractors Rocky Mountain Chapter, and two private citizens testified in support of the bill. A representative from the State Electrical Board testified in a neutral position. The committee referred the bill, unamended, to the Senate Committee of the Whole with a recommendation that it be placed on the consent calendar.

Senate second reading (March 24, 2016). The Senate passed the bill, unamended, on second reading.

Senate third reading (March 28, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.