

HB 762 -- Licensure of Electrical Contractors

Sponsor: Gatschenberger

This bill establishes the Missouri Electrical Industry Licensing Board in the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration to regulate and license electrical contractors. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Specifies that the board's nine members, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, will be chosen from the three districts established by the bill. Members will serve four-year terms, not to exceed two terms. Four members must be in good standing with the National Electrical Contractors Association, two members with the Associated Builders and Contractors, and two members with the Independent Electrical Contractors and one member from the Society of Professional Engineers;

(2) Requires the board to meet at least four times annually and allows board members to be reimbursed for expenses and receive compensation of up to \$70 per day for expenses incurred in the performance of the member's official duties;

(3) Exempts work done by certain employees, contractors, and companies from the provisions of the bill;

(4) Requires an electrical contracting firm to employ at a supervisory level at least one licensed electrical contractor;

(5) Requires an applicant for a statewide electrical contractor's license to be at least 21 years of age and a United States citizen, provide proof of insurance in an amount of \$500,000, post a bond with each political subdivision in which he or she will perform work, pass a standardized and nationally accredited electrical assessment examination, pay for the costs of the examination, and provide evidence of the completion of certain hours of practical work experience as specified in the bill;

(6) Allows a contractor practicing prior to January 1, 2005, to be issued a statewide license if he or she has completed 12,000 hours of verifiable practical experience and holds an electrical license that is in good standing and was issued by any authority that required a written test;

(7) Specifies that an electrical contractor operating in a political subdivision that does not require the contractor to hold a local license will not be required to have a state license. A

political subdivision will not be prohibited from establishing its own local license but must recognize a statewide license in lieu of a local license for the purposes of performing work or obtaining permits to perform work within the political subdivision;

(8) Requires the division to establish licensing fees to cover administrative costs and authorizes the division to negotiate reciprocal licensing agreements with other states;

(9) Creates the Missouri Electrical Industry Licensing Board Fund which will be used solely for the administration and operation of the board;

(10) Requires an electrical contractor who transfers employment from one company to another to notify the division of his or her intent to transfer employment and of any current active permits on the contractor's license when transferring employment. Upon receiving the notification, the division must notify all affected political subdivisions via electronic communication of the contractor's status. It must be assumed that all permits are cleared if no response is given otherwise by the affected political subdivisions within 72 hours of the notification; and

(11) Allows the board to file a complaint against a contractor with the Administrative Hearing Commission and to suspend or revoke a license based on the commission's findings.

Any person or corporation who knowingly violates these provisions will be guilty of a class B misdemeanor.