

HB 2118 -- MISSOURI ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY LICENSING BOARD

SPONSOR: Cox

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 lists submitted by the division director from the three districts established in 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 specified utility employees, a railroad corporation, specified contractors who service the construction and maintenance of power lines or substations of specified utility or telecommunications companies, a federally licensed radio or television station or commercial mobile radio service provider, specified private broadcast engineering contractors, or specified contractors involved in cabling infrastructure and products that transport voice, video, audio, and data signals 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 and 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 have completed specified hours of practical work experience as specified in the bill;

(6) Allows an electrical contractor who currently holds an electrical license in good standing that was issued by any

authority in this state that required, prior to January 1, 2005, the passing of a written examination and who has completed 12,000 hours of verifiable practical experience must be issued a statewide license;

(7) Specifies that any person operating as an electrical contractor in a political subdivision that does not require the contractor to hold a local license must not be required to possess a statewide license to continue to operate as an electrical contractor in the political subdivision. A political subdivision must not be prohibited from establishing its own local electrical contractor's 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 allows 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 any of these provisions is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.