

SCS SB 240 -- STATEWIDE LICENSURE OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

SPONSOR: Schatz (Mathews)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Development by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill creates a statewide license for electrical contractors, which shall be issued by the Division of Professional Registration, within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration. The bill requires an applicant for statewide licensure to be at least 21 years of age, provide proof of liability insurance in the amount of \$500,000, pass a standardized and nationally accredited electrical assessment examination, and complete practical hours as specified in the bill.

This bill allows a political subdivision to continue establishing their own local electrical contractor's license, but must recognize a statewide license in lieu of such local license. If a political subdivision fails to recognize a statewide license, then the licensee may file a complaint with the division. If, after investigation, the political subdivision still refuses to recognize the statewide license then the division shall notify the Director of the Department of Revenue who shall withhold local sales tax dollars until the political subdivision is in compliance with the law.

Any person who is operating as an electrical contractor in a political subdivision that does not require the contractor to hold a local license is not required to possess a statewide license to continue to operate in that political subdivision. However, each corporation, firm, institution, organization, company, or representative thereof who engages in electrical contracting must have a least one statewide licensed electrical contractor employed at a supervisory level.

Beginning in 2020, this bill requires a statewide license to be renewed once every three years. Any officer or agent of a corporation, partnership, or association who violates these provisions is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

This bill is similar to HB 807 (2017), HCS HB 2063 (2016), and SB 773 (2016).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that a statewide option for licensure of electrical contractors provides fairness and increases competition while preserving high standards for safety and local

options for licensing.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Schatz; National Electric Contractors Association; Sheila Sperla, IEC of Greater St. Louis; and Lou Schreier, AMF Electric.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.