

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 378

H. P. 392

House of Representatives, January 26, 1981

Reported by Representative Gwadosky from the Committee on Business
Legislation. Printed under Joint Rules 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

**AN ACT Relating to Permits and Inspection for Electrical Installation in
Commercial Buildings under the Electrician Law.**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. 30 MRSA § 2557 is amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

The installation or alteration of electrical equipment in municipalities or alteration of electrical equipment in municipalities which do not require a permit and in the unorganized territories is governed by Title 32, section 1102-B.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA § 1102-B is enacted to read:

§ 1102-B. Permits and inspections of commercial buildings

1. Permits required. No electrical equipment may be installed or altered in any unorganized territory or municipality which does not require a permit under Title 30, section 2557, unless the person making the installation first obtains a permit from the Electricians' Examining Board. Applications for a permit shall be in writing and accompanied by a general description of the installation planned and any plans, specifications or schedules the board requires in order to act on the application. If the board determines that the installation planned will comply with all applicable statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations, it shall issue a permit.

2. Inspection required. When installation or alteration is completed, the

person making the installation shall notify the state electrical inspector assigned to the area. The inspector shall inspect the installation within a reasonable time. If he determines that the installation complies with all applicable statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations, he shall issue a certificate of approval. If he determines that the installation does not so comply, he shall follow the procedures set forth in section 1104.

3. **Procedures and fees.** Pursuant to Title 5, c. 375, the board shall adopt procedures for permit applications and the conduct of inspections and shall establish a schedule of fees to cover the actual costs of inspection.

4. **Exceptions.** This section does not apply to the following:

A. One or 2 family dwellings;

B. Installations or alterations of electrical equipment used by a public utility in rendering service; and

C. Minor repair work, including the replacement of lamps, fuses, switches and sockets, the installation and repair of outlets, radio and other low voltage equipment and the repair of entrance service equipment.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Electrical installations are being made in commercial buildings by unlicensed persons and many of these installations are not meeting the requirements of the National Electrical Code, which provides the minimum requirements for the State. This bill would insure the public against poor electrical installations which could result in loss of life or property.

Some of the larger cities and towns in the State do not require permits and do not inspect electrical installations.

Electrical violations are one of the major safety problems found by state and federal labor inspectors. Approximately 1/3 of all their violations are electrical.