

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1713

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H.P. 1102

House of Representatives, April 18, 2023

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### **An Act to Update Electrical Education and Other Licensure Requirements for Electricians**

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Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Reference to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §1202-A**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 261, §1 and c. 503, Pt. B,  
3 §1, is repealed.

4 **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §1202-B** is enacted to read:

5 **§1202-B. Issuance and scope of licenses**

6 A person licensed under this chapter must produce a copy of the license upon request  
7 of the state electrical inspector.

8 The board may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section. Rules adopted  
9 pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,  
10 subchapter 2-A.

11 **1. Apprentice electrician.** Licensing for an apprentice electrician is governed by this  
12 subsection.

13 A. An apprentice electrician who is licensed in accordance with this subsection and  
14 registered with an apprenticeship program may perform electrical installations under  
15 the direct supervision of a master electrician, journeyman electrician or limited  
16 electrician.

17 B. The board may issue an apprentice electrician license to an individual who submits  
18 an application with the required fee and provides evidence of enrollment in a registered  
19 apprenticeship program that has been approved and validated by the United States  
20 Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of  
21 Apprenticeship or by a State Apprenticeship Agency recognized by the Office of  
22 Apprenticeship.

23 **2. Helper electrician.** Licensing for a helper electrician is governed by this  
24 subsection.

25 A. A helper electrician who is licensed in accordance with this subsection may make  
26 electrical installations under the direct supervision of a master electrician, journeyman  
27 electrician or limited electrician. A helper electrician must be employed by a  
28 supervising master electrician, limited electrician or electrical company.

29 B. The board may issue a helper electrician license to an individual who submits an  
30 application with the required fee.

31 **3. Journeyman-in-training electrician.** Licensing for a journeyman-in-training  
32 electrician is governed by this subsection.

33 A. A journeyman-in-training electrician may make electrical installations while  
34 employed by a supervising master electrician, limited electrician or electrical company.  
35 A journeyman-in-training electrician may not supervise other electricians.

36 B. An applicant for a journeyman-in-training license must first pass an examination  
37 approved by the board. To qualify for the examination, an applicant must submit an  
38 examination application with the required fee and provide evidence of one of the  
39 following:

40 (1) Completion of at least 2,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations  
41 as a licensed helper electrician and an electrical program at an accredited

1 community college consisting of a 576-hour course of study as adopted by the  
2 board;

3 (2) Completion of at least 2,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations  
4 as a licensed helper electrician and a vocational-electrical program of a state  
5 department of corrections; or

6 (3) Comparable work experience, education or training, or any combination of  
7 comparable work experience, education or training, completed within the State or  
8 outside the State, that is acceptable to the board.

9 C. Upon passage of the examination, the board may issue the journeyman-in-training  
10 license to an applicant who submits a license application with the required fee and  
11 evidence of completion of a 45-hour course in the National Electrical Code within the  
12 2 years prior to application for licensure.

13 **4. Journeyman electrician.** Licensing for a journeyman electrician is governed by  
14 this subsection.

15 A. A journeyman electrician may make electrical installations while employed by a  
16 supervising master electrician, limited electrician or electrical company. A person  
17 licensed under this subsection may supervise:

18 (1) Two helper electricians who are enrolled in, or have completed, a 576-hour  
19 course of study as adopted by the board;

20 (2) Two apprentice electricians; or

21 (3) One helper electrician.

22 B. An applicant for a journeyman electrician license must first pass an examination  
23 approved by the board. To qualify for the examination, an applicant must submit an  
24 examination application with the required fee and provide evidence of one of the  
25 following:

26 (1) Completion of at least 8,000 work hours in electrical installations as a licensed  
27 apprentice electrician and completion of a 576-hour course of study as adopted by  
28 the board or a course of study approved by the United States Department of Labor,  
29 Employment and Training Administration, Office of Apprenticeship as part of the  
30 National Guidelines for Apprenticeship Standards.

31 An individual applying pursuant to this subparagraph who has completed a 576-  
32 hour course of study adopted by the board or a course of study approved by the  
33 United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration,  
34 Office of Apprenticeship as part of the National Guidelines for Apprenticeship  
35 Standards and at least 4,000 of the 8,000 required work hours in the field of  
36 electrical installations as a licensed apprentice electrician may take the  
37 examination prior to completing the remaining required work hours;

38 (2) Completion of at least 8,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations  
39 as a licensed helper electrician or completion of at least 8,000 work hours in  
40 electrical installations and completion of a 576-hour course of study as adopted by  
41 the board;

1           (3) Completion of a secondary school career and technical education electrical  
2           program approved pursuant to Title 20-A, section 8306-B and completion of at  
3           least 8,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations. An individual  
4           applying pursuant to this subparagraph may take the examination upon graduating  
5           from the program and is credited 1,000 work hours in the field of electrical  
6           installations. The individual must complete any remaining work hours prior to  
7           applying for a journeyman electrician license;

8           (4) Completion of an electrical program at an accredited community college  
9           consisting of a 576-hour course of study as adopted by the board and completion  
10           of at least 8,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations as a licensed  
11           helper electrician. An individual applying pursuant to this subparagraph may take  
12           the examination upon completion of the electrical program and is credited 4,000  
13           work hours in the field of electrical installations. The individual must complete  
14           any remaining work hours prior to applying for a journeyman license;

15           (5) Completion of a vocational-electrical program of a state department of  
16           corrections and completion of at least 8,000 work hours in the field of electrical  
17           installations as a licensed helper electrician. An individual applying pursuant to  
18           this subparagraph may take the examination upon completion of the vocational-  
19           electrical program and is credited 4,000 work hours in the field of electrical  
20           installations. The individual must complete any remaining work hours prior to  
21           applying for a journeyman license; or

22           (6) Comparable work experience, education or training, or a combination of  
23           comparable work experience, education or training, completed within the State or  
24           outside the State, that is acceptable to the board.

25           C. Upon passage of the examination, the board may issue the journeyman license to  
26           an individual who submits a license application with the required fee, demonstrates  
27           proof of any required work hours in the field of electrical installations and provides  
28           evidence of completion of a 45-hour course in the National Electrical Code within the  
29           2 years prior to application for licensure.

30           **5. Master electrician.** Licensing for a master electrician is governed by this  
31           subsection.

32           A. A master electrician may make electrical installations without limitation. A master  
33           electrician is responsible for verifying the current licensure of all of that master  
34           electrician's employees, if licensure is applicable, prior to and during employment. A  
35           master electrician is responsible for any electrical installation that master electrician  
36           performs and for the electrical installations of individuals that master electrician  
37           supervises at the time of the electrical installations.

38           A master electrician may supervise:

39           (1) Two helper electricians who are enrolled in, or have completed, a 576-hour  
40           course of study as adopted by the board;

41           (2) Two apprentice electricians employed by the master electrician; or

42           (3) One helper electrician employed by the master electrician.

1 A master electrician may supervise an unlimited number of licensed journeyman  
2 electricians, journeyman-in-training electricians or limited electricians.

3 B. An applicant for a master electrician license must first pass an examination  
4 approved by the board. To qualify for the examination, an applicant must submit an  
5 examination application with the required fee and provide evidence of one of the  
6 following:

7 (1) Completion of at least 12,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations  
8 as a licensed helper or apprentice electrician and completion of a 576-hour course  
9 of study as adopted by the board;

10 (2) Completion of at least 4,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations  
11 as a journeyman electrician and completion of a 576-hour course of study as  
12 adopted by the board;

13 (3) Completion of at least 6,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations  
14 as a journeyman-in-training electrician and completion of a 576-hour course of  
15 study as adopted by the board; or

16 (4) Comparable work experience, education or training, or a combination of  
17 comparable work experience, education or training, completed within the State or  
18 outside the State, that is acceptable to the board. The board may exercise its  
19 discretion to determine if a limited electrician license holder applying for a master  
20 electrician's license has adequate experience in all phases of electrical installation  
21 to take the examination.

22 A person who holds a journeyman or limited electrician license issued prior to July 1,  
23 1987 is eligible to take the examination for a master electrician license if the person  
24 has completed the number of hours of work experience required by this paragraph.

25 C. Upon passage of the examination, the board may issue the master electrician license  
26 to a person who submits a license application with the required fee and provides  
27 evidence of completion of a 45-hour course in the National Electrical Code within the  
28 2 years prior to application for licensure.

29 **6. Limited electrician.** Licensing for a limited electrician is governed by this  
30 subsection.

31 A. A limited electrician may make electrical installations authorized by the specific  
32 limited electrician license category without limitation. A limited electrician may  
33 supervise helper electricians or apprentice electricians only in the performance of  
34 electrical installations authorized by the limited electrician's specific limited license  
35 category.

36 A limited electrician may supervise:

37 (1) Two helper electricians who are enrolled in, or have completed, a 576-hour  
38 course of study as adopted by the board;

39 (2) Two apprentice electricians; or

40 (3) One helper electrician.

41 A limited electrician is responsible for verifying the current licensure of all employees,  
42 if licensure is applicable, prior to and during employment. A limited electrician is

1 responsible for any electrical installation work that limited electrician performs and for  
2 work of individuals that limited electrician supervises at the time of electrical  
3 installation.

4 B. A limited electrician may make only electrical installations authorized by the  
5 specific limited license category, as follows:

6 (1) A limited electrician in water pumps is restricted to performing electrical work  
7 between the branch circuit overcurrent device, the water pump and associated  
8 controls;

9 (2) A limited electrician in outdoor signs, including sign lighting, may not perform  
10 electrical work on branch circuit wiring;

11 (3) A limited electrician in gasoline dispensing is restricted to performing  
12 electrical work between the branch circuit overcurrent device, the dispenser and  
13 associated controls;

14 (4) A limited electrician in traffic signals, including outdoor lighting of traffic  
15 signals, is restricted to performing electrical work on traffic signals, including  
16 outdoor lighting of traffic signals and the traffic signal electrical service;

17 (5) A limited electrician in house wiring is restricted to performing electrical work  
18 in one-family dwellings and 2-family dwellings, including manufactured homes;

19 (6) A limited electrician in refrigeration is restricted to performing electrical work  
20 between the branch circuit overcurrent device, the refrigeration equipment and  
21 associated controls;

22 (7) A limited electrician in low-energy electronics is restricted to performing  
23 electrical work on low-energy electronics as supplied by Class I, II and III limited  
24 energy systems, all fire alarm systems and the dedicated branch circuit wiring; and

25 (8) A limited electrician in crane wiring is restricted to the installation of electrical  
26 equipment and wiring used in connection with cranes, monorail hoists, hoists and  
27 runways.

28 C. The board may require an applicant for a limited electrician license to first pass an  
29 examination approved by the board. When an examination is required, an applicant  
30 must submit an examination application with the required fee and provide evidence of  
31 one of the following, as applicable to the listed limited license category:

32 (1) For water pumps, completion of at least 135 hours of electrical education and  
33 2,000 hours of work experience approved in rules adopted by the board;

34 (2) For outdoor signs, including sign lighting, completion of at least 135 hours of  
35 electrical education and 2,000 hours of work experience approved in rules adopted  
36 by the board;

37 (3) For gasoline dispensing, completion of at least 135 hours of electrical  
38 education and 2,000 hours of work experience approved in rules adopted by the  
39 board;

40 (4) For traffic signals, including outdoor lighting of the traffic signals, completion  
41 of at least 135 hours of electrical education and 2,000 hours of work experience  
42 approved in rules adopted by the board;





1           For the journeyman-in-training, journeyman, master and limited electrician categories  
2 of licensure, the bill provides that all applicants for licensure must have completed a 45-  
3 hour course in the National Electrical Code within 2 years of applying for a license.

4           The bill does not change the current scope of practice or the supervision requirements  
5 for any level of licensure.