

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**EIGHTIETH LEGISLATURE**

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**HOUSE**

**NO. 249**

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House of Representatives, March 9, 1921.

Ordered printed and recommitted to Committee on Legal Affairs.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Rounds of Portland.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND  
NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE**

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AN ACT Relative to the Registration of Persons, Firms and Corporations Designing to Install Wires or Apparatus for Electric Light, Heat or Power Purposes.

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

Section 1. Except as hereinafter provided, no person, firm or corporation shall, after the first day of September, nineteen hundred and twenty-one, enter into, engage in, or work at the business of installing wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures or other appliances for carrying or using electricity for light, heat or power purposes in this state, either as a master or employing electrician or as a journeyman electrician, unless such person, firm, or corporation, shall have

9 received a license or certificate therefor, issued by the board  
10 provided for in section two of this act and in accordance  
11 with the provisions hereinafter set forth.

The words "master or employing electrician" as used in  
2 this act shall mean a corporation, firm or person, having a  
3 regular place of business, who, by the employment of jour-  
4 neymen, performs the work of installing wires, conduits,  
5 apparatus, fixtures and other appliances for carrying or  
6 using electricity for light, heat or power purposes.

The word "journeyman" as used in this act shall mean a  
2 person who does any work of installing wires, conduits,  
3 apparatus, fixtures and other appliances for hire.

Sect. 2. On and after the first day of January in the  
2 year nineteen hundred and twenty-two the insurance com-  
3 missioner, one member of the board of public utilities and  
4 the secretary of state shall constitute the state examiners  
5 of electricians. They shall employ as clerk a practical elec-  
6 trician, who is a wage earner, and a citizen of the state  
7 who has had at least ten years' experience in the installa-  
8 tion of wires and appliances for carrying electricity for  
9 light, heat or power purposes. He shall receive such salary  
10 as shall be determined by the state examiners, subject to  
11 the approval of the governor and council, and shall hold his  
12 office for a term of three years. The three examiners shall  
13 receive no compensation for their services under the terms  
14 of this act. The compensation of the clerk and the travel-  
15 ing and other necessary expenses of the state examiners

16 shall not exceed five hundred dollars for the clerk or for  
17 the expenses of the members of the board and shall when  
18 approved by the state auditor be paid from the treasury of  
19 the state.

The state examiners of electricians may make necessary  
2 rules for the proper performance of their duties.

They shall hold examinations in such cities or towns and  
2 at such times as the board may determine to be advisable.  
3 Public notice shall be given of all examinations.

The state examiners of electricians shall annually, on or  
2 before the first Wednesday in January, transmit to the gov-  
3 ernor and council a report of their doings.

In the conduct of the examinations they shall make uni-  
2 form requirements for all cities and towns, which may be  
3 revised from time to time, as circumstances may require.  
4 Said examinations shall be sufficiently frequent to give ample  
5 opportunity for all applicants to be thoroughly and care-  
6 fully examined, and may be supervised by one or more of  
7 the members of the board, but no license shall be granted  
8 without the approval of the board. Examinations may be  
9 given in writing or practical work, as deemed most advis-  
10 able by the board.

The records of the meetings of said board shall be open  
2 for inspection at all reasonable times, and the board shall  
3 have printed annually a manual of its regulations, including  
4 the names of all licensees.

Sect. 3. (1) Two forms of licenses shall be issued: The  
2 first, hereinafter referred to as "certificate A", shall be  
3 known as "master electrician's certificate", the second, here-  
4 inafter referred to as "certificate B", shall be known as a  
5 "journeyman electrician's certificate".

A "master's certificate" shall be issued to any person, firm  
2 or corporation engaged in or about to engage in the busi-  
3 ness of installing electrical wires, conduits, apparatus, fix-  
4 tures and other electrical appliances, that shall have quali-  
5 fied under the provisions of this act. A certificate of regis-  
6 tration shall be issued specifying the name of the person,  
7 firm or corporation so applying, and the name of the per-  
8 son, who, in the case of a firm shall be one of its members,  
9 and in the case of a corporation, shall be one of its officers,  
10 passing said examination, by which he or it shall be authcr-  
11 ized to enter upon or engage in business as set forth there-  
12 in; provided, however, that any person, firm or corporation  
13 that has been engaged in said business for at least five years  
14 next prior to the date of the application shall not be re-  
15 quired to pass said examination, but shall present proof of  
16 fitness.

The holding of "certificate A" shall not entitle the holder  
2 individually to engage in or perform the actual work of  
3 installing electric wires, conduits and appliances as previ-  
4 ously described in this act, but shall entitle him to conduct  
5 the business as an employing or master electrician.

(2) "Certificate B" or a journeyman electrician's license, shall be granted to any person who has passed an examination before the examining board provided for in this act, or who shall present proof of fitness and that he has gained his livelihood by the occupation of electrician for five consecutive years next prior to the date of application. A certificate shall be issued specifying the name of the person so engaged, by which certificate such person shall be authorized to enter upon or engage in the occupation of journeyman electrician. Every person desiring an examination shall make application therefor in writing, accompanied by the proper fee. The fee for an examination for certificate "A" shall be ten dollars and that for certificate "B" shall be one dollar. An applicant who failed in his examination shall not have his fee returned to him, but shall be entitled to one re-examination free of charge. For each subsequent re-examination, he shall pay five dollars in the case of certificate "A", and fifty cents in the case of certificate "B".

(3) All certificates "A" described in paragraph (1) of this section shall expire on the thirty-first day of December in each year, but may be renewed by the same person, firm or corporation, as represented by one or more of its members or officers, without further examination, upon the payment of a fee of five dollars, application therefor being made during the month next prior to said expiration of said certificate.

(4) All certificates "B" described in paragraph (2) of this section shall expire on the thirty-first day of December in each year, but may be renewed upon the payment of the fee of fifty cents, and upon the same condition set forth in paragraph (3) of this section.

Sect. 4. No certificate issued under the provisions of this act to either master or journeyman shall be assignable or transferable. Said certificates may, after a hearing, be suspended or revoked by the board of examiners upon failure or refusal of the licensee to comply with the rules and requirements of said business as set forth by said examiners, or for other sufficient cause.

Sect. 5. Any person, firm or corporation, or employee thereof, and any representative, or any member or officer of such firm or corporation individually entering upon or engaging in the business and work hereinbefore defined, without having complied with the provisions of this act shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars nor more than one hundred dollars for the first offense, and for each subsequent offense by a fine of not less than fifty dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or by six months imprisonment, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Sect. 6. No person, firm or corporation holding a master's certificate shall be held liable for work done by any of his or its employees without authorization, unless it shall appear that such work was done with his or its knowledge or consent or by his or its authorization.

All fees and fines collected under the provisions of this act shall be paid into the treasury of the state.

Sect. 7. This act shall not apply to the installation, re-  
pairing and wiring of elevators or to work in connection  
with the erection, construction, maintenance or repair of  
lines for the transmission of electricity from the source of  
supply to the service switch on the premises where it is  
used by municipal electric plant, by electric power com-  
panies, or by gas companies authorized to engage in the  
business of making or selling electricity, by electric street  
railway companies or by electric railroad companies or by  
railroad companies; nor to the work of such plants or com-  
panies on premises owned or controlled by them; nor to  
the work of said municipal electric plants or the said elec-  
tric or gas companies in installing, maintaining and repair-  
ing, on the premises of customers the service connection  
and meters and other apparatus and appliances which re-  
main the property of such plants or companies after in-  
stallation; nor to work in connection with the lighting of  
streets, alleys, private ways or private or public parks, areas  
or squares; nor to the work of companies incorporated for  
the transmission or intelligence by electricity in installing,  
maintaining or repairing wires, apparatus, fixtures or other  
appliances used in the business of such companies and nec-  
essary for, or incident to, such business, and whether such  
wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures or other appliances are  
on its own premises or otherwise.



Sect. 8. Nothing in this act shall be construed as for-  
2 bidding the employment or learners or apprentices working  
3 with and under the direct personal supervision of journey-  
4 men electricians duly certified as provided in this act.

Electricians employed by theatrical companies may install  
2 such temporary wiring and appliances as may be required  
3 for the purpose of the engagement of any such company,  
4 subject to the supervision of some person licensed under  
5 the provisions of this act.

Electricians regularly employed by firms or corporations  
2 other than holders of class "A" certificate may install such  
3 electrical wiring, conduits and appliances or make such re-  
4 pairs as may be required only on the premises and property  
5 of said firms or corporations; provided, that said electri-  
6 cians hold a journeyman's license and have complied with  
7 all provisions set forth in this act.

Sect. 9. Any person applying for a journeyman's license  
2 who makes any misstatement as to his experience or other  
3 qualifications, or any person, firm or corporations subscrib-  
4 ing to or vouching for any such misstatement, shall be liable  
5 to the penalties set forth in section five of this act.