

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2026, Legislative Day No. 15

Bill No. 76-26

Mr. Michael Ertel, Chair
By Request of County Executive

By the County Council, August 3, 2026

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Permits, Licenses, and Business Regulations – Electricians – Licensing and Registration

FOR the purpose of amending the County Code to align with State law as it pertains to licensing electricians and registering low-voltage electricians, amending the Building Code of Baltimore County with technical updates, and generally relating to licensing and registration of electricians in Baltimore County.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Sections 21-7-104(a), 21-7-105, 21-7-107, 21-7-201, 21-7-202, 21-7-203,
21-7-204, 21-7-205, 21-7-208, 21-7-209, 21-7-210, 21-7-214, 21-7-215,
21-7-216, 21-7-301, and 21-7-303
Article 21 – Permits, Licenses, and Business Regulation
Title 7 – Electricians
Baltimore County Code, 2015

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

BY repealing

Sections 21-7-211, 21-7-212, and 21-7-213
Article 21 – Permits, Licenses, and Business Regulation
Title 7 – Electricians
Subtitle 2 – Licensing
Baltimore County Code, 2015

BY re-numbering

Sections 21-7-214, 21-7-215, and 21-7-216 to be
Sections 21-7-211, 21-7-212, and 21-7-213, respectively
Article 21 – Permits, Licenses, and Business Regulation
Title 7 – Electricians
Subtitle 2 – Licensing
Baltimore County Code, 2015

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Sections 128.1.4.1 and 128.9
Baltimore County Building Code, as adopted by Bill 49-24

BY repealing

Section 129
Baltimore County Building Code, as adopted by Bill 49-24

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE
2 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the laws of Baltimore County shall read as follows:

4 ARTICLE 21 – PERMITS, LICENSES, AND BUSINESS REGULATION

5 Title 7 – Electricians

6 Subtitle 1 – In General

8 § 21-7-104. Authority to adopt regulations.

9 (a) The Director may adopt regulations:

(1) For the issuance of licenses AND REGISTRATIONS to conduct an electrical business;

(2) For the examination of applicants for a license;

(3) For the issuance of permits for electrical work;

(4) For the inspection of electrical work; and

(5) In the public interest and in order to safeguard the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare.

§ 21-7-105. Fees.

The County Administrative Officer may impose reasonable charges and fees for license examinations, LICENSES, renewal licenses, REGISTRATION, RENEWAL REGISTRATIONS, appeals to an arbitration panel, licenses issued under the waiver provisions of § 21-7-207 of this title, permits, inspections, and other services rendered by the Department under the authority of this title.

§ 21-7-107. Notice of violations.

The Director shall notify the Board of the name of any licensee OR REGISTRANT who has been found to have violated any of the provisions of this title for which a license OR REGISTRATION may be suspended or revoked under the provisions of the Code.

Subtitle 2 – Licensing AND REGISTRATION

§ 21-7-201. Classes enumerated.

1 There are ~~[three]~~ TWO classes of electrician ~~[licenses:]~~ GOVERNED BY THIS TITLE:

2 (1) ~~[Master]~~ A REGISTERED MASTER general electrician; AND

3 ~~[(2)]~~ Master limited electrician; and]

4 ~~[(3)]~~ (2) A LICENSED Restricted (LOW VOLTAGE) electrician.

5
6 § 21-7-202. License required; exceptions.

7 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, a person shall be licensed OR
8 REGISTERED by the Board before the person may install, repair, maintain, or erect any kind of
9 electrical wiring, conduits, machinery, appliances, motors, fixtures, signs, radios, television and
10 electronic equipment, electrically operated heating equipment, elevators, or any other electrically
11 operated apparatus or device in or about any premises in the county.

12 (b) This section does not apply to:

13 (1) A utility company regulated by the State Public Service Commission;

14 ~~[(2)]~~ An individual making minor repairs and replacements to existing wiring or
15 equipment in the individual's own home except for repairs involving aluminum wiring or solar
16 photovoltaic systems which must be made under the supervision of a licensed electrician;

17 (3) A radio and electronic experimenter and amateur if no change in existing
18 wiring is necessary, unless changes are authorized by the Board, and in each case the applicant
19 must file an application with the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections for a permit
20 and inspection;]

21 ~~[(4)]~~ (2) An employee of the United States government, when engaged in
22 performance of the employee's official duties only; and

1 [(5)] (3) An individual working under the supervision of a master general
2 electrician or under the supervision of a specified representative of a person or business holding
3 a [master limited] RESTRICTED (LOW VOLTAGE) electrician license.

4 (c) Unless otherwise required by this title, a person engaged in the manufacture,
5 assembly, or repair of electrical equipment manufactured by the person or manufactured for the
6 person by a parent or subsidiary is not required to hold or to employ the holder of any of the
7 licenses provided for by this title solely by reason of the manufacture, assembly, or repair of
8 electrical equipment.

9
10 § 21-7-203. [Minimum age.] APPLICATION FOR MASTER GENERAL ELECTRICIAN
11 REGISTRATION.

12 An applicant for a [license] REGISTRATION as a master general electrician[, master
13 limited electrician, or restricted electrician shall be at least 21 years old when the applicant takes
14 the required examination.] SHALL SUBMIT TO THE BOARD AN APPLICATION FOR A
15 MASTER GENERAL ELECTRICIAN REGISTRATION, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE COPIES
16 OF THE FOLLOWING:

17 (1) AN ACTIVE AND INSURED MASTER ELECTRICIAN LICENSE
18 ISSUED BY THE STATE AND HELD IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S NAME;

19 (2) THE INDIVIDUAL'S NON-EXPIRED DRIVER'S LICENSE;

20 (3) THE COMPLETED APPLICATION FOR MASTER GENERAL
21 ELECTRICIAN REGISTRATION; AND

22 (4) THE CONTINUING EDUCATION CERTIFICATE REQUIRED BY THE
23 STATE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL'S MASTER ELECTRICIAN LICENSE RENEWAL,

1 UNLESS CONTINUING EDUCATION WAS NOT REQUIRED TO OBTAIN THE MASTER
2 ELECTRICIAN LICENSE WITH THE STATE, IN WHICH CASE THIS REQUIREMENT
3 SHALL BE WAIVED.

4
5 § 21-7-204. Application for RESTRICTED (LOW VOLTAGE) ELECTRICIAN license.

6 [(a)] An applicant for a RESTRICTED (LOW VOLTAGE) ELECTRICIAN license
7 shall:

8 (1) Submit to the Board an application in the applicant's own handwriting on a
9 form supplied by the Board, which shall include:

10 (i) The number of years the applicant has been engaged in electrical work;

11 (ii) The type or types of work in which the applicant has been engaged;

12 [and]

13 (iii) The name and address of the applicant's current employer, or if the
14 applicant is not employed, the name and address of the applicant's last employer; AND

15 (IV) A CURRENT INSURANCE CERTIFICATE MEETING THE
16 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS SET BY THE STATE; AND

17 [(2) Submit with the application one or more letters from employers certifying to
18 the character and qualifications of the applicant and the fitness of the applicant for the type of
19 license for which the applicant is applying; and]

20 [(3)] (2) Pay to the Board a non-refundable fee, as established by the County
21 Administrative Officer, to cover the cost of any examination the applicant is required to take.

1 [(b) An applicant for a license for which an examination is required shall file the
2 application with the Board on or before the 15th day of the month preceding the examination, as
3 determined by the Board under § 21-7-205 of this subtitle.

4 (c) A business applying for a license under this title shall submit an application to the
5 Board on a form supplied by the Board signed in the name of the applicant by an executive
6 officer or plant manager, and setting forth the name and qualifications of the employee or
7 employees whose employment entitles the applicant to receive the type of license applied for and
8 under whose supervision all electrical work to be done for the applicant will be performed.]

9
10 § 21-7-205. RESTRICTED (LOW VOLTAGE) ELECTRICIAN LICENSE Examinations.

11 (a) An applicant for a [master general electrician, a master limited electrician, or]
12 restricted (LOW VOLTAGE) electrician license who is an individual AT LEAST 21 YEARS
13 OLD, shall submit to an examination which measures the applicant's qualifications for the
14 license sought.

15 (b) An applicant who otherwise qualifies for a license is entitled to be examined as
16 provided in this section.

17 (c) (1) The Board shall give examinations for a license under this title [during the
18 months of March and September] on days determined by the Board.

19 (2) [Additionally, the] THE Board may give [special] examinations at any time it
20 chooses.

21 (d) In order to qualify for a license, the applicant shall correctly answer at least 70% of
22 the questions asked on the examination.

1 (e) (1) Not more than 45 days after the examination, the Board shall issue its
2 decision regarding the qualifications of the applicant and whether [or not] the applicant may
3 receive a license.

4 (2) The Board shall send notice of its decision to the applicant by mail.
5

6 § 21-7-207. Reciprocal waiver of examination requirements.

7 (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Board may waive any examination
8 requirement of this subtitle for an applicant who holds an active electrician license issued by
9 another county or municipal corporation of the state.

10 (b) The Board may grant a waiver under this section if the applicant:

11 (1) Pays to the Board the fee established by the County Administrative Officer;
12 and

13 [(2) Provides written verification from the other county or municipal corporation
14 of the state that:

15 (i) The county or municipal corporation has licensed the applicant by
16 examination; and

17 (ii) The applicant has been operating an electrical business for at least 1
18 year in that county or municipal corporation.]

19 (2) PROVIDES A COPY OF THE ACTIVE AND INSURED LICENSE FROM
20 ANOTHER COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE.

21 [(c) The Board may grant a waiver if the county or municipal corporation of the state in
22 which the applicant is licensed waives the examination of licensees of Baltimore County to a

1 similar extent as Baltimore County waives the examination requirements for individuals licensed
2 in that county or municipal corporation.

3 (d) The Board may not grant a license to a person or business that was licensed by
4 another county or municipal corporation of the state under the grandfather clause without
5 examination unless the applicant has provided to the Board written verification from that county
6 or municipal corporation that the person or business has been operating an electrical business for
7 at least 2 years in the county or municipal corporation.]

8
9 § 21-7-208. Limitation on representation.

10 A licensed OR REGISTERED electrician may not represent more than one business
11 concurrently.

12
13 § 21-7-209. Term and renewal of license AND REGISTRATION.

14 (a) (1) Unless a RESTRICTED (LOW VOLTAGE) ELECTRICIAN license is
15 renewed for a 2-year term as provided in this [section,] SUBSECTION, the license expires the
16 second June 30 after its effective date.

17 [(b)] (2) Before July 1 of the renewal year, the licensee may renew the license for an
18 additional 2-year term, if the licensee pays the RESTRICTED (LOW VOLTAGE)
19 ELECTRICIAN license renewal fee [established by the County Administrative Officer.] AND
20 PROVIDES A CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE MEETING THE MINIMUM
21 REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE.

1 [(c) (1)] (3) Except as provided in paragraph [(2)] (4) of this subsection, if the licensee
2 fails to renew a license before July 1 of the renewal year, the Board may issue a renewal license
3 only if the licensee pays the fee for an original license plus the renewal fee.

4 [(2)] (4) If the license is not renewed within 1 year after its expiration date, the
5 Board may not issue a renewal license and the person may receive a license only by applying for
6 a license as a new licensee.

7 (B) (1) UNLESS A MASTER GENERAL ELECTRICIAN REGISTRATION IS
8 RENEWED AS PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION, THE REGISTRATION SHALL
9 EXPIRE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE REGISTRANT'S MASTER ELECTRICIAN
10 LICENSE ISSUED BY THE STATE.

11 (2) A REGISTRANT SHALL RENEW THEIR MASTER ELECTRICIAN
12 LICENSE WITH THE STATE BEFORE APPLYING FOR A REGISTRATION RENEWAL.

13 (3) A MASTER GENERAL ELECTRICAL REGISTRATION MAY BE
14 RENEWED IF THE REGISTRANT:

15 (I) HOLDS A CURRENT AND INSURED MASTER ELECTRIC
16 LICENSE ISSUED BY THE STATE;

17 (II) PAYS THE MASTER GENERAL ELECTRICAL REGISTRATION
18 RENEWAL FEE, AND, IF THE REGISTRATION EXPIRED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF
19 THE APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION RENEWAL, PAY THE LATE FEE; AND

20 (III) PROVIDE A COPY OF THE CONTINUING EDUCATION
21 CERTIFICATE SUBMITTED WITH THE CURRENT RENEWAL OF THE REGISTRANT'S
22 MASTER ELECTRICIAN LICENSE ISSUED BY THE STATE.

1 (4) IF THE REGISTRATION IS NOT RENEWED WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER
2 ITS EXPIRATION DATE, THE REGISTRATION MAY NOT BE RENEWED AND THE
3 PERSON MAY RECEIVE A REGISTRATION ONLY BY APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION
4 AS A NEW REGISTRANT.

5
6 § 21-7-210. Master general electrician [license] REGISTRATION – In general.

7 (a) The Board shall issue a master general electrician [license] REGISTRATION to any
8 person or the representative of any person eligible under this subtitle.

9 (b) A business is entitled to receive and retain a master general electrician [license]
10 REGISTRATION if at least one of its employees is a current holder of a master general
11 electrician [license.] REGISTRATION.

12 (c) (1) A master general electrician [license] REGISTRATION authorizes the holder
13 to perform or have performed under the holder's supervision any of the work described in § 21-
14 7-202 of this subtitle.

15 (2) If the [license] REGISTRATION is held by a business, any of the work
16 described in § 21-7-202 of this subtitle may be performed for the business itself or for others.

17
18 [§ 21-7-211. Same – Qualifications.

19 (a) In this section, 1 year equals at least 2,000 hours worked.

20 (b) An applicant for a master general electrician license shall:

21 (1) Demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant has been
22 regularly and principally employed or engaged in electrical construction, maintenance,

1 installation, and repair of all types of electrical equipment and apparatus under the supervision of
2 a master general electrician for at least 7 years before applying for the license; and

3 (2) Pass an examination provided for under this subtitle.

4 (c) The Board may credit the applicant not more than 3 years for formal course study or
5 professional training in electrical installation if, in the opinion of the Board, the study or training
6 provided comparable experience and training otherwise attainable under the supervision of a
7 master electrician or while employed by a governmental agency.

8 (d) The Board may waive the requirements of subsection (b) of this section for an
9 individual who is licensed by the State Board of Master Electricians to engage in the business of
10 providing electrical services as a master electrician if the applicant:

11 (1) Pays the requisite local license fee; and

12 (2) Provides adequate evidence that the applicant:

13 (i) Became licensed as a master electrician only after passing an
14 examination given by the State Board;

15 (ii) Holds an active state license; and

16 (iii) Has met all other requirements of this title to the satisfaction of the
17 Board, including bonding and insurance requirements.]

18
19 [§ 21-7-212. Master limited electrician license – In general.

20 (a) (1) The Board shall issue a master limited electrician license to an individual who
21 shall specify the person or business to which the applicant shall assign the license.

22 (2) On approval of the Board, the license shall follow the individual to whom it is
23 granted.

1 (b) A master limited electrician license authorizes the holder to perform or to have
2 performed, under the direction of the designated representative, any of the work authorized by
3 this title to be performed by a licensed electrician, but only on the premises occupied by the
4 holder of the license.

5 (c) A business or management firm that regularly employs maintenance personnel who
6 are authorized to make electrical repairs to existing equipment or apparatus on property that is
7 not lived in by the owner shall apply for and obtain a registration certificate from the Board.

8 (d) An applicant for a certificate shall submit an application to the Board on a form
9 provided by the Board that shall include:

10 (1) The name of the resident manager or individual who is authorized to make
11 maintenance decisions regarding repairs; and

12 (2) The business phone number and address where official mail is received.

13 (e) A business is entitled to receive and retain the registration certificate if at least one of
14 its employees is currently certified by the Board to make the repairs.

15 (f) (1) The Board shall issue a registration certification to any person that the Board
16 determines to be qualified.

17 (2) The certificate authorizes the holder to maintain and repair only the particular
18 type or types of electrical equipment specified in the registration certification.]

19
20 [§ 21-7-213. Same – Qualifications.

21 (a) In this section, 1 year equals at least 2,000 hours worked.

22 (b) An applicant for a master limited electrician license shall:

(1) Have been regularly and principally employed or engaged in electrical construction, maintenance, installation, and repair of all types of electrical equipment and apparatus under the supervision of a master electrician or master limited electrician for at least 5 years before applying for the license; and

(2) Pass an examination provided for under this subtitle.]

§ [21-7-214.] 21-7-211. Restricted (LOW VOLTAGE) electrician license – In general.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS OR PHRASES HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(1) “LOW VOLTAGE” MEANS 50 VOLTS OR LESS.

(2) “1 YEAR” MEANS AT LEAST 2,000 HOURS WORKED.

[(a)] (B) (1) The Board shall issue a restricted (LOW VOLTAGE) electrician license to any person determined to be qualified by an examination given by the Board.

(2) The license authorizes the holder to install, maintain, and repair the particular type or types of electrical equipment specified in the license as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

[(b)] (C) (1) [Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a] A restricted (LOW VOLTAGE) electrician license may authorize the holder [to:

(i) Install,] TO INSTALL, maintain, and repair [electrically operated heating furnaces, electrically operated air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment, electrically operated elevators, electric display signs, and radios, televisions, and electronics;] LOW VOLTAGE WIRING, INCLUDING TELEPHONE, INTERNET, AND ALARMS.

[(ii) Provide motor repairs and motor services; or

1 (iii) Maintain or repair, but not install, electrical household appliances.

2 (2) A restricted electrician license may specify one, or when related, two of the
3 items listed in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

4 (c) The holder of a restricted electrician license, not including a license issued for
5 electrical household appliances, radios, televisions, electronics, motor repairs, and motor
6 services, may install electrical wiring from the point of distribution to the equipment being
7 installed.]

8 (d) This license may be issued to any business if and so long as it has in its employ at
9 least one holder of a restricted (LOW VOLTAGE) electrician's license.

10
11 § [21-7-215.] 21-7-212. Same – Qualifications.

12 The applicant for a restricted (LOW VOLTAGE) electrician license shall:

13 (1) Establish to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant has been actively
14 in charge of electrical installation work under the supervision of a master general electrician or
15 restricted (LOW VOLTAGE) electrician for at least 3 years; and

16 (2) Pass an examination with respect to the particular specialty or specialties to
17 be covered by the license for which the applicant has applied.

18
19 § [21-7-216.] 21-7-213. Suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew a license OR
20 REGISTRATION.

21 The Board may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew any license OR REGISTRATION,
22 after a public hearing on at least 15 days' notice to the licensee OR REGISTRANT by registered
23 mail, for any of the following causes and reasons:

1 (1) Allowing an unlicensed OR UNREGISTERED person or business to obtain a
2 permit or perform electrical work under the authority of a licensee;

3 (2) Performing or allowing the performance of defective or dangerous work;

4 (3) Except as otherwise provided in § 21-7-301 of this title, failing to file an
5 application for a permit from the Department before beginning work as required by this title;

6 (4) Failing to make corrections required by a notice issued by an enforcement
7 officer, as provided in § 21-7-302 of this title; or

8 (5) Violating any of the provisions of this title or of any regulations adopted in
9 accordance with this title.

10 11 Subtitle 3 – Standards, Permits, and Inspections

12 13 § 21-7-301. Permits.

14 (a) Permits shall be applied for and issued as provided in this title.

15 [(b) The holder of a master limited electrician license shall obtain an annual electrical
16 permit from the Department before the license holder may perform or have performed any
17 installations, alterations, or repairs on the premises of the holder.]

18 [(c)] (B) A master general or restricted electrician shall apply for a permit from the
19 Department before making any electrical installations, alterations, or repairs.

20 [(d)] (C) The Department may not issue a meter cut-in certificate or temporary cut-in
21 certificate to a utility company unless the application is made by the holder of a master general
22 [or limited] electrician [license.] REGISTRATION.

1 § 21-7-303. Standards for electrical installations.

2 All electrical installations shall conform to the National Electrical Code, NFPA 70,
3 NFPA 70E, AND NFPA 70B, published by the National Fire Protection Association, latest
4 edition, as it now exists or as it may from time to time be amended.

5
6 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the following section of the
7 International Building Code, 2021 Edition, as part of the “Building Code of Baltimore County”
8 adopted by Bill 49-24 shall be amended to read as follows:

9
10 BUILDING CODE OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

11 Part 128. Electrical.

12
13 Part 128.1.4.1. Multi-service [Single Tenant/Occupant Building].

14 A single emergency disconnect means shall be provided at each service connection which
15 shall simultaneously disconnect all building normal power sources FOR ALL BUILDINGS,
16 EITHER SINGLE TENANT OR MULTIPLE TENANT, WITH MULTIPLE SERVICES.

17
18 Part 128.9. Solar Photovoltaic AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE Supply Side Connection to Utility.

19 Where solar photovoltaic AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE systems are connected to the
20 utility on the supply side of the service disconnect, the requirements of the NEC as amended,
21 Article 230 shall apply to the installation, grounding, and bonding requirements of the NEC as
22 amended, Article 250 for services shall apply. The unfused photovoltaic AND ELECTRIC
23 VEHICLE supply side conductors shall be kept as short as practicable and must be in a raceway.

1
2 [Part 129. New One- and Two-family Dwellings That Have Either a Garage, Carport or
3 Driveway.

4 All new one- and two-family dwellings that have either a garage, carport or driveway
5 shall be provided with either 1 or 2 below.

6 1. Adequately sized wiring to a 50-amp circuit box with a blank cover plate back
7 to the electric panel to accommodate a future level 2 or higher EV charging station. Circuit
8 breaker and connection to the electric panel is not required. Electric service and electric panel
9 shall be sized for the potential EV charging load.

10 2. Install a box with a blank plate with 1-1/4-inch conduit from the garage,
11 carport, or driveway with 6/2 wire back to electrical panel for future level 2 or higher EV
12 charging station. Actual connection to the electric panel with a circuit breaker is not required.
13 Electrical service and electrical panel shall be designed for the potential EV charging load.]
14

15 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act, having been passed by
16 the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect 14 days after its
17 enactment.