

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 1102 - L.D. 1713

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

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

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 B, §1, is repealed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A. A helper electrician who is licensed in accordance with this subsection may make electrical installations under the direct supervision of a master electrician, journeyman

electrician or limited electrician. A helper electrician must be employed by a supervising master electrician, limited electrician or electrical company.

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

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

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

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

(1) Completion of at least 2,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations as a licensed helper electrician and an electrical program at an accredited community college consisting of a 576-hour course of study as adopted by the board;

(2) Completion of at least 6,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations as a licensed apprentice electrician and a 576-hour course of study as adopted by the board or a course of study approved by the United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Apprenticeship or by a state apprenticeship agency recognized by the Office of Apprenticeship;

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) Two apprentice electricians; or

(3) One helper electrician.

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

(1) Completion of at least 8,000 work hours in electrical installations as a licensed apprentice electrician and completion of a 576-hour course of study as adopted by the board or a course of study approved by the United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Apprenticeship or by a state apprenticeship agency recognized by the Office of Apprenticeship.

An individual applying pursuant to this subparagraph who has completed a 576-hour course of study adopted by the board or a course of study approved by the United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Apprenticeship or by a state apprenticeship agency recognized by the Office of Apprenticeship and at least 4,000 of the 8,000 required work hours in the field of electrical installations as a licensed apprentice electrician may take the examination prior to completing the remaining required work hours;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A master electrician may supervise:

- (1) Two helper electricians who are enrolled in, or have completed, a 576-hour course of study as adopted by the board;
- (2) Two apprentice electricians employed by the master electrician; or
- (3) One helper electrician employed by the master electrician.

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

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

- (1) Completion of at least 12,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations as a licensed helper or apprentice electrician and completion of a 576-hour course of study as adopted by the board;
- (2) Completion of at least 4,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations as a journeyman electrician and completion of a 576-hour course of study as adopted by the board;
- (3) Completion of at least 6,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations as a journeyman-in-training electrician and completion of a 576-hour course of study as adopted by the board; or
- (4) Comparable work experience, education or training, or a combination of comparable work experience, education or training, completed within the State or outside the State, that is acceptable to the board. The board may exercise its discretion to determine if a limited electrician license holder applying for a master electrician's license has adequate experience in all phases of electrical installation to take the examination.

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

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

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

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

A limited electrician may supervise:

- (1) Two helper electricians who are enrolled in, or have completed, a 576-hour course of study as adopted by the board;
- (2) Two apprentice electricians; or
- (3) One helper electrician.

A limited electrician is responsible for verifying the current licensure of all employees, if licensure is applicable, prior to and during employment. A limited electrician is responsible for any electrical installation work that limited electrician performs and for work of individuals that limited electrician supervises at the time of electrical installation.

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

- (1) A limited electrician in water pumps is restricted to performing electrical work between the branch circuit overcurrent device, the water pump and associated controls;
- (2) A limited electrician in outdoor signs, including sign lighting, may not perform electrical work on branch circuit wiring;
- (3) A limited electrician in gasoline dispensing is restricted to performing electrical work between the branch circuit overcurrent device, the dispenser and associated controls;
- (4) A limited electrician in traffic signals, including outdoor lighting of traffic signals, is restricted to performing electrical work on traffic signals, including outdoor lighting of traffic signals and the traffic signal electrical service;
- (5) A limited electrician in house wiring is restricted to performing electrical work in one-family dwellings and 2-family dwellings, including manufactured homes;
- (6) A limited electrician in refrigeration is restricted to performing electrical work between the branch circuit overcurrent device, the refrigeration equipment and associated controls;
- (7) A limited electrician in low-energy electronics is restricted to performing electrical work on low-energy electronics as supplied by Class I, II and III limited energy systems, all fire alarm systems and the dedicated branch circuit wiring; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

(5) For house wiring, completed at least 225 hours of electrical education and 4,000 hours of work experience approved in rules adopted by the board;

(6) For refrigeration, completion of:

(a) At least 270 hours of electrical education and 6,000 hours of work experience approved in rules adopted by the board; or

(b) An electrical program in refrigeration from an accredited institution and 6,000 hours of work experience approved in rules adopted by the board. Graduates of an electrical program in refrigeration from an accredited institution are credited with 4,000 hours work experience upon graduation;

(7) For low-energy electronics, including fire alarms, completion of at least 270 hours of electrical education and 4,000 hours of work experience approved in rules adopted by the board; or

(8) For crane wiring, completion of at least 135 hours of electrical education and 2,000 hours of work experience approved in rules adopted by the board.

A person may be eligible for examination under this paragraph by providing evidence of comparable work experience, education or training, or a combination of comparable work experience, education or training, completed within the State or outside the State, that is acceptable to the board.

D. The board may issue a limited electrician license to an applicant who submits a license application with the required fee, passes any required examination and provides evidence of completion of a 45-hour course in the National Electrical Code within the 2 years prior to application for licensure.

**Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §1206, 2nd ¶**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 198, §18, is further amended to read:

Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, the board, upon receiving an application for a reciprocal license, may waive the 576 hours of study required for a journeyman or master license pursuant to section ~~1202-A~~ 1202-B. The board may require the applicant to submit such written evidence as it determines necessary to support the application.