



Senate Bill 916

Task Force to Study Licensing and Continuing Education Requirements for Electricians

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

Date: March 8, 2013

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee
From: Andrea Mansfield

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 916 **WITH AMENDMENTS**. The bill would establish a Task Force to Study Licensing and Continuing Education Requirements for Electricians, requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding local electrician licensing and transitioning to a single, statewide license.

MACo does not oppose a general stakeholder-driven study of licensing and continuing education requirements for electricians in Maryland. However, counties have concerns that the outlined objectives of the Task Force pre-dispose it to reach a certain outcome – namely a transition to a statewide licensing system. On this basis, MACo would seek an amendment to establish a more neutral Task Force charge.

In addition, MACo would suggest that the Task Force include two county members from MACo, to allow for appropriate input from the diverse approaches to ensuring safe and effective licensing systems. Counties have a variety of licensing programs, which differ in the types of licenses offered and the continuing education hours required. An amended Task Force membership could ensure these important perspectives are present.

While ensuring individuals are properly trained to perform electrical services and are knowledgeable of building code requirements is important, a statewide system is not the only avenue to that end. Currently, all but two jurisdictions, Allegany and Garrett, license their electricians. Whereas, counties would experience lost revenue if licensing were discontinued at the local level, more importantly, there would be no local oversight to ensure compliance with electrical codes for each specific county.

Therefore, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 916 **WITH AMENDMENTS** to broaden the focus of the Task Force and include membership representative of the varying methods of the counties' electrician licensing. MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 916 **WITH AMENDMENTS**.

Amendments SB 916
(First Reading File Bill)

Amendment No. 1

On page 2, strike following “(2)” in line 21 down through line 24 on page 2 and substitute:

“Review appropriate approaches for the licensure of electricians at the State and local level to protect citizens and provide for efficiency of electrical services across county lines; and

(3) if a new approach to licensure is deemed appropriate, how to transition to this approach without undue negative affects upon electricians currently licensed at the State and local level, or the current bodies that currently oversee licensure.”

Amendment No. 2

On page 2, strike “one representative” following “(iii)” in line 5, inserting

“two representatives of the Maryland Association of Counties; one representative of a jurisdiction offering journeyman licenses, and one representative of a jurisdiction with an established program of continuing education”