

HOUSE BILL 635

Introduced by Hoffman, et al.

2/10	Introduced
2/11	Referred to Business & Economic Development
2/15	Hearing
2/15	Tabled in Committee

1 House BILL NO. 635
 2 INTRODUCED BY Hoffman
 3 Pratt Brady Butler Hironaka
 4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE STATE
 5 ELECTRICAL BOARD TO ACCEPT MAINTENANCE WORK IN FULFILLMENT
 6 OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A MASTER ELECTRICIAN'S LICENSE;
 7 AMENDING SECTION 37-68-304, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE
 8 EFFECTIVE DATE."

9
 10 STATEMENT OF INTENT

11 A statement of intent is required for this bill because
 12 it mandates that the state board of electricians amend its
 13 rules relating to the licensing of master electricians. The
 14 legislature intends that in determining an applicant's
 15 compliance with the practical experience criterion in
 16 37-68-304(1) the board give work in electrical maintenance
 17 equal weight as work in the field of electrical
 18 construction. For purposes of adopting rules, maintenance
 19 includes ordinary and customary in-plant or on-site
 20 installations, modifications, additions, or repairs that are
 21 limited to: relamping fixtures, replacing ballasts,
 22 trouble-shooting motor controls, and replacing motors,
 23 breakers, and magnetic starters, in a kind for kind manner.
 24 Maintenance also includes the connection of specific items
 25 of specialized equipment that can be directly connected to

1 an existing branch circuit panel by means of
 2 factory-installed leads.

3
 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

5 **Section 1.** Section 37-68-304, MCA, is amended to read:

6 "37-68-304. Master electricians -- application --
 7 qualifications -- contents of examination -- qualification
 8 of electrical maintenance work. (1) An applicant for a
 9 master electrician's license shall furnish written evidence
 10 that he is a graduate electrical engineer of an accredited
 11 college or university and has 1 year of practical electrical
 12 experience or that he is a graduate of an electrical trade
 13 school and has at least 4 years of practical experience in
 14 electrical work or that he has had at least 5 years'
 15 practical experience in planning, laying out, or supervising
 16 the installation and repair of wiring, apparatus, or
 17 equipment for electrical light, heat, and power.

18 (2) Applicants for license as a master electrician
 19 shall file an application on forms prescribed by the board
 20 and furnished by the department, together with the
 21 examination fee. The board shall, not less than 30 days
 22 prior to a scheduled written examination, notify each
 23 applicant that the evidence submitted with his application
 24 is sufficient to qualify him to take the written examination
 25 or that the evidence is insufficient and is rejected. If the

1 application is rejected, the board shall set forth the
2 reasons in the notice to the applicant and shall authorize
3 the department to return the applicant's examination fee.
4 The place of examinations shall be designated by the board,
5 and examinations shall be held at least once a year and at
6 other times as, in the opinion of the board, the number of
7 applicants warrants.

8 (3) The board may not refuse to accept electrical
9 maintenance work that is exempt under 37-68-103(1) or (2) in
10 fulfillment of the practical experience requirement of
11 subsection (1) of this section.

12 ~~(3)~~(4) The written examination shall consist of at
13 least 30 questions designed to fairly test the applicant's
14 knowledge and his technical application in the following
15 subjects:

- 16 (a) the national electrical code;
- 17 (b) cost estimating for electrical installments;
- 18 (c) procurement and handling of materials needed for
19 electrical installations and repair;
- 20 (d) reading of blueprints for electrical work;
- 21 (e) drafting and layout of electrical circuits;
- 22 (f) knowledge of practical electrical theory."

23 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is
24 effective on passage and approval.

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