

- 1 P6QIRG-1
- 2 By Representative Butler
- 3 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
- 4 First Read: 13-Apr-23



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4 SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors is responsible for the licensing and regulation of electrical contractors in the state.

This bill would provide for the definition of an electrical worker and a provisional license, and would delete references to master electrician.

This bill would provide further for the election of board officers and for the duties of the board, including the subpoena of witnesses, the investigation of complaints, and providing for reciprocity.

This bill would provide an individual previously issued a provisional license three years to take the licensure examination, and would require the board to waive the examination fee for one sitting.

This bill would lessen the time frame during which an expired license may be restored from five years to two years after expiration.

This bill would also provide further for exemptions and would remove the authority of a county or municipality to require an additional electrical contracting proficiency examination before issuing a local license to perform electrical work within the county or municipality.

Section 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of



2022, prohibits a general law whose purpose or effect would be to require a new or increased expenditure of local funds from becoming effective with regard to a local governmental entity without enactment by a 2/3 vote unless: it comes within one of a number of specified exceptions; it is approved by the affected entity; or the Legislature appropriates funds, or provides a local source of revenue, to the entity for the purpose.

The purpose or effect of this bill would be to require a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of the amendment. However, the bill does not require approval of a local governmental entity or enactment by a 2/3 vote to become effective because it comes within one of the specified exceptions contained in the amendment.

47 A BILL

48 TO BE ENTITLED

49 AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors; to amend Sections 34-36-3, 34-36-4, 34-36-6, 34-36-7, 34-36-8, 34-36-9, 34-36-13, and 34-36-16, Code of Alabama 1975; to provide further for definitions, to delete references to master electrician; to provide further for the election of board officers; to provide further for the duties



- of the board, including the subpoena of witnesses, the
- 58 investigation of complaints, and providing for reciprocity; to
- 59 provide an individual previously issued a provisional license
- 60 three years to take the licensure examination, and require the
- board to waive the examination fee for one sitting; to lessen
- the time frame for restoring an expired license from five
- years to two years; to provide further for exemptions; to
- remove the authority of a county or municipality to require an
- 65 additional electrical contracting proficiency examination
- 66 before issuing a local license to work within the county or
- 67 municipality; and in connection therewith would have as its
- 68 purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased
- 69 expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Section
- 70 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022.
- 71 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
- 72 Section 1. Sections 34-36-3, 34-36-4, 34-36-6, 34-36-7,
- 34-36-8, 34-36-9, 34-36-13, and 34-36-16 of the Code of
- 74 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:
- 75 "\$34-36-3
- 76 (a) The following terms shall have the meanings
- 77 respectively ascribed to them used in this chapter, for the
- 78 purposes of this chapter, unless the context clearly requires
- 79 a different meaning:
- 80 (1) BOARD. The Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors.
- 81 (2) DIRECTOR. The Executive Director of the Alabama
- 82 Board of Electrical Contractors.
- 83 (3) ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING. Any job or project in the
- 84 State of Alabama wherein the electrical contractor proposes to



- 85 bid, install, maintain, alter, or repair any electric wiring
  86 devices or equipment.
- 87 (4) ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR. Any person, firm, or 88 corporation who is engaged in the business of soliciting and 89 installing electrical power or control systems; maintaining, altering, or repairing electrical power or control systems, 90 91 any electrical wiring devices, equipment, or any other 92 electrical apparatus. A person who possesses the necessary 93 qualifications, training, and technical knowledge to plan, lay out, and supervise the installation of electrical wiring, 94 95 apparatus, or equipment for lighting, heating, power, or controls and who possesses any of the following 96 97 qualifications:
- a. Four years of practical experience as a journeyman electrician in charge of jobs.
- b. Four years of experience in the design andconstruction of electrical systems.
- 102 (5) ELECTRICAL WORKER. Any person who has received 103 training, or is receiving training, in the installation, 104 maintenance, and repair of electrical systems and circuitry 105 and has demonstrated skills and knowledge concerning the 106 potential hazards of electricity. The position of electrical 107 worker does not require a license from the board. An 108 electrical worker may only perform electrical work in this 109 state if he or she is any of the following:
- a. Employed by, and responsible to, a properly licensed electrical contractor.
- b. Employed by a company that employs a properly



113 licensed electrical contractor and the electrical worker is responsible to that licensed electrical contractor. 114 115 c. Employed by a workforce staffing company that 116 contracts to provide workers to a licensed electrical 117 contractor and responsible to a licensed electrical 118 contractor. 119 (5) JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIAN. A person who possesses 120 necessary qualifications, training, and technical knowledge to install electrical wiring, apparatus, or equipment lighting, 121 heating, or power or control covered by this chapter. He or 122 123 she shall work under a master or state certified an electrical contractor and shall be capable of doing work according to 124 plans and specifications furnished to him or her and in 125 126 accordance with standard rules and regulations governing such 127 work. (6) (7) LICENSE. A valid and current certificate of 128 129 registration issued by the director on behalf of the board 130 which shall give the named person to whom it is issued 131 authority to engage in the activity prescribed thereon. 132 (7) (8) LICENSEE. Any person holding a license issued by 133 the board. 134 (8) (9) PERSON. A human person, not a legal entity. 135 (10) PROVISIONAL LICENSE. A person who holds a limited 136 license issued by the board before August 31, 2012, to perform 137 electrical contracting tasks and functions only within the 138 boundaries and jurisdiction of the local authority where the licensee holds a local electrical contractor license. 139

(b) Additional terms may be defined by the board, by



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141	rule.	"

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142 "\$34-36-4

- 143 (a) The Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors is 144 created.
- 145 (b) A person to be eliqible for appointment to serve on 146 the board shall be a citizen and resident of Alabama. Each 147 person appointed to the board from each congressional district 148 shall be actively engaged in the electrical construction 149 contracting business as a qualified person with electrical construction background of not less than five consecutive 150 years, and shall hold certificates to validate his or her 151 competence as an electrical contractor in the electrical 152 153 construction field immediately preceding appointment. The two 154 persons appointed to the board as at-large members shall be 155 members of the Alabama State Electrical Workers Association. The membership of the board should be inclusive and should 156 157 reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural Governor 158 shall coordinate his or her appointments to assure the board 159 membership is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, 160 geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.
  - (c) The board shall consist of nine members to be appointed by the Governor. One member shall be appointed from each congressional district, and there shall be two at-large members who shall be appointed from within the state. The board members from the First, Second, and Third Congressional Districts shall be appointed for terms of one year; the board members from the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Congressional Districts shall be appointed for terms of two years; and the



169 board member from the Seventh Congressional District as well 170 as the at-large members shall be appointed for terms of three 171 years. Thereafter, all board members shall be appointed for 172 terms of three years. Each term shall expire on June 30 of the 173 last year of the term, and no member shall serve more than two 174 consecutive three-year terms. Vacancies on the board for any 175 cause shall be filled by appointment by the Governor for the 176 remainder of the unexpired term. Members shall serve until 177 their successors are appointed.

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- (d) The board shall meet at least semiannually and as often as necessary. The board shall meet annually to elect officers from its membership, whose initial terms shall expire on June 30 next following their election. To be eligible for election as an officer, a board member shall have served for at least two years on the board at the time of election.

  Special meetings of the board may be held as the board provides in its rules and regulations. The board shall meet at least once in the first quarter and once in the third quarter of the year. Five members of the board shall constitute a quorum.
- 189 (e) The board may adopt rules—and regulations to carry
  190 out this chapter.
- 191 (f) Any member of the board or duly appointed hearing
  192 officer designated by the board may administer oaths and take
  193 testimony concerning all matters within the jurisdiction of
  194 the board.
- 195 (g) The board may sue and be sued in its official name.

  196 Absent negligence, wantonness, recklessness, or deliberate



misconduct, members of the board are immune from liability for all good faith acts performed in the execution of their duties of the board.

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- (h) The board shall adopt a seal for its use containing the words: Alabama <u>Board of Electrical Contractors' Licensing</u>

  Board Contractors.
- 203 (i) The board may employ, and at its pleasure 204 discharge, an executive director. The board may hire other 205 officers, attorneys, and administrative employees which may be 206 necessary to implement this chapter. The board may employ, on 207 an as needed basis, an investigator investigators to investigate complaints. The board shall not employ electrical 208 209 inspectors nor provide for any electrical inspections. The 210 board shall outline the duties and fix the compensation and 211 expense allowances of all employees pursuant to the Merit 212 System Act of Alabama.
- 213 (j) The board is subject to the Alabama Sunset Law and
  214 is classified as an enumerated agency pursuant to Section
  215 41-20-3. The board shall automatically terminate on October 1,
  216 2012, and every four years thereafter, unless a bill is
  217 enacted that the board be continued, modified, or
  218 reestablished.
- 219 (k) Each board member shall be accountable to the
  220 Governor for the proper performance of his or her duties as a
  221 member of the board. The Governor shall investigate any
  222 complaints or unfavorable reports concerning the actions of
  223 the board and shall take appropriate action thereon, including
  224 removal of any board member for misfeasance, malfeasance,



neglect of duty, commission of a felony, incompetence, or
permanent inability to perform official duties. A board member
may be removed at the request of the board after failing to
attend three consecutive properly noticed meetings."

229 "\$34-36-6

- 230 (a) By rule, the board shall make provisions to do all of the following:
- (1) Prepare or approve all examinations of applicants for licenses for electrical contractors and journeyman electricians.
- 235 (2) Determine the qualifications of electrical 236 contractors to engage in the business of electrical 237 contracting.
- 238 (3) Determine the qualifications of journeyman electricians to engage in electrical work.
- 240 (4) Provide for the investigation of written complaints 241 filed with the board concerning alleged violations of this 242 chapter and any rules adopted by the board.
- 243 (5) Conduct investigations. The board may subpoena 244 witnesses and command the production of any books, documents, 245 records, and papers the board deems pertinent to any matter 246 under investigation. The board, by order of the chair or 247 executive director, may require any person to produce within 248 the state, at a reasonable time and place as the board may 249 designate, any books, documents, records, or papers kept in 250 any office or place without or within this state, or certified 251 copies thereof, whenever the production is reasonably required 252 and pertinent to any matter under investigation before or by



253 the board, in order that an examination may be made by the 254 board, or by any person employed by the board.

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- (6) Investigate written complaints relating to faulty, inefficient, unlicensed, or unsafe electrical work likely to endanger life, health, or property.
- 258 (7) Provide for reciprocity with other states in the 259 registration and licensing of electrical contractors and 260 journeyman electricians, provided that those other states have 261 requirements substantially equal to or greater than the 262 requirements of this state for registration and licensure and 263 that a similar privilege is offered to licensees of this board. 264
- 265 (b) The board may suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue 266 or renew a license and impose a civil penalty in an amount not 267 to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000), after notice and opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the Alabama 268 269 Administrative Procedure Act, upon proof of any of the 270 following actions by a licensee or applicant:
  - (1) Violating any provision of this chapter.
  - (2) Attempting to procure a license to practice electrical contracting or to work as a master electrician an electrical contractor or journeyman electrician by bribery or fraudulent misrepresentations.
  - (3) Being convicted or found quilty, regardless of adjudication, of a crime in any jurisdiction which directly relates to the practice of electrical contracting, working as a journeyman electrician, or the ability to practice

280 electrical contracting or to work as a master electrician



281 <del>journeyman electrician</del>.

- (4) Making or filing a report or record which the licensee knows to be false, willfully failing to file a report or record required by state or federal law, willfully impeding or obstructing such filing, or inducing another person to impede or obstruct such filing. Such reports or records shall include only those which are signed in the capacity of a licensed electrical contractor, master electrician, or journeyman electrician.
  - (5) Being found guilty of fraud or deceit or of negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in the practice of electrical contracting or working as a master electrician an electrical contractor or journeyman electrician.
- 294 (6) Practicing—on\_with a revoked, suspended, or 295 inactive license.
  - (7) Aiding or abetting any person to evade any provision of this chapter.
  - (8) Knowingly combining or conspiring with any person by allowing one's license to be used by any unlicensed person with the intent to evade this chapter. When a licensee allows his or her license to be used by any firm, partnership, association, or corporation without having any active participation in the operations or management of the firm, partnership, association, or corporation, such the act constitutes prima facie evidence of an intent to evade this chapter.
    - (9) Acting in the capacity of a contractor under any license issued under this chapter except in the name of the



309 licensee as set forth on the issued license.

- and be responsible for the electrical work purportedly performed by an electrical worker or a journeyman electrician under the oversight of an electrical contractor or his or her affiliated company, in order to ensure that all electrical work is compliant with the applicable code or codes and the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
- (c) Upon finding a person, corporation, or business entity engaged in electrical contracting as defined in this chapter to be in violation of any of the provisions contained herein within this chapter, the board may investigate the activities of licensed and unlicensed contractors. If the board finds that a person, corporation, or business entity is engaged in performing electrical contracting covered by this chapter without having obtained a proper license, the board may do any of the following:
  - (1) Deny an application for licensure with cause.
- 327 (2) Impose an administrative fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
- 329 (3) Issue a cease and desist order.
  - (4) Petition the circuit court of the county where the act occurred to enforce the cease and desist order or collect the assessed fine, or both.
  - (d) Any person aggrieved by any adverse action taken by the board may appeal the adverse action to the circuit court of the county in which the adverse action occurred in accordance with the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act.



	(e) In addition to the administrative lines authorized
<u>in sub</u>	sections (b) and (c), the board may require any person
or lic	ensee who is found to be in violation of Section 34-36-2
or sub	section (b) or (c), after notice and opportunity for a
hearin	g pursuant to the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act,
to pay	the costs, fees, and expenses of the board incurred in
connec	tion with any related proceedings before the board.
Paymen	t of any costs, fees, and expenses ordered by the board
shall	be made and enforced in the same manner as an
admini	strative fine. For the purposes of this subsection,
costs	shall include, but not be limited to, all of the
follow	ing:
	(1) Investigative fees and expenses.
	(2) Reasonable and necessary attorney fees and
expens	es.
	(3) Actual costs related to expert testimony.
	(4) Witness travel expenses.
	(5) Deposition costs.
	(6) Travel expenses for board staff.
	(7) Charges incurred for obtaining documentary
eviden	ce.
	(8) Other categories of expenses incurred by the board.
	(f) The board, by rule, may provide a schedule of costs
or fin	es, or both, that may be imposed upon any person or
licens	ee who has violated Section 34-36-2 or subsection (b) or
(c). T	he maximum costs or fines levied for each violation may
not ex	ceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) each."
	"\$34-36-7

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365	(a) All applicants for licensure <u>must</u> shall submit a
366	completed application, application fee, and supportive
367	documentation of qualifications before taking an examination
368	approved by the board. The board shall examine applicants at
369	least once every three months according to the method deemed
370	by it to be the most appropriate to test the qualifications of
371	applicants. Any national standardized or written examination
372	proctored by an independent third party which the board shall
373	approve as substantially similar to the examination required
374	to be licensed under this chapter may be administered to all
375	applicants in lieu of or in conjunction with any other
376	examination which the board shall give to test the
377	qualifications of applicants. The board shall also have the
378	right to may establish such norms of achievement as shall be
379	required for a passing grade. The board $\frac{may}{may}$ , by rule, $\frac{may}{may}$
380	adopt the National Electrical Code for the purpose of
381	examinations.
382	(b) The board may recognize a license issued by any
383	other state that, in the opinion of the board, has standards
384	of practice or licensure equal to or higher than those
385	required by this state. The board shall actively seek to
386	reciprocate with those states meeting such standards. The
387	board shall actively seek to maintain those states currently
388	under agreement.
389	(c)(b) No license shall be issued except in compliance
390	with this chapter and none shall be issued except to a person
391	or a person in a firm, partnership, association, or

corporation. A firm, partnership, association, or corporation,

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as such, shall not be licensed. A licensee shall be a citizen

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394 of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United 395 States, a person who is legally present in the United States 396 with appropriate documentation from the federal government. 397 (d) An individual who has successfully passed, on or 398 before January 1, 2010, with a minimum score of 70 percent, or 399 an individual who has successfully passed after January 1, 2010, with a minimum score of 75 percent, a nationally 400 standardized proctored electrical examination administered in 401 402 the State of Alabama, by Block and Associates, International 403 Code Council, Experior, Promissor, Thomson Prometric, PROV, or any other exam approved by the board, shall be deemed to be in 404 405 compliance with the testing requirement set forth by the board 406 for licensure as an electrical contractor. Individuals meeting 407 this qualification shall also be required to complete all other qualifications set forth by this chapter and the board 408 409 prior to issuance of an electrical contractor license. 410 Electrical contractor applicants affected by this provision shall have until July 1, 2011, to apply for licensure without 411 412 any further examination requirements. 413 (c) An individual holding a provisional license issued 414 by the board shall have three calendar years after the 415 effective date of the act adding this subsection to take and 416 pass a nationally standardized proctored electrical 417 examination approved by the board for licensure without any 418 further examination requirements. If the provisional licensee does not pass the examination within those three years, the 419 420 provisional license shall expire. A provisional license that



421	<pre>expires may</pre>	not be	renewed	d. The	board	shall w	aive th	<u>ne</u>
422	examination	fee on	e time d	during	the th	hree-yea	ar time	period
423	provided by	this s	ubsectio	on."				

424 "\$34-36-8

- (a) All licenses shall expire annually or at other times designated by the board. All applications for renewal of licenses shall be filed with the <u>executive</u> director prior to the expiration date, accompanied by the annual renewal fee prescribed by the board.
- (b) The board is authorized to may establish or adopt, or both, continuing education requirements and may approve the program or programs providing education to fulfill the requirements. The board shall set the minimum standards of continuing education. All persons holding an electrical contractor license shall be required to complete 14 hours of continuing education every two years.
  - (c) The board may <u>promulgate</u> adopt rules regarding the approval of continuing education courses and the accounting for continuing education hours.
- (d) Any person licensed by the board may elect an inactive status certificate by notifying the board in writing. The fee for the issuance and renewal of an inactive status certificate shall be established by the board. The board shall provide by rule those activities which an inactive status certificate holder may engage in and for a procedure for the reinstatement as an active status certificate holder."

447 "\$34-36-9

448 An expired A license for an electrical contractor which



has expired for failure to renew may only be restored within five two years from the date of expiration after application and payment of the prescribed restoration fee and satisfaction of all continuing education requirements, if applicable. The restoration fee shall be established by the board and shall be due upon application for restoration. The restoration fee shall be in addition to all accrued renewal fees. Any license which has not been restored within five two years following its expiration may not be renewed, restored, or reissued thereafter. The holder of such a cancelled license may apply for and obtain a valid license only upon compliance with all relevant requirements as prescribed by this chapter or by rule for issuance of a new license."

462 "\$34-36-13

- (a) No person shall engage in the electrical contracting business or perform work as a master an electrical contractor or journeyman electrician unless—such the person shall have received a license from the board or from the county or municipality where the electrical contracting work is being performed; provided, however, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply. The following activities, people, and entities are exempt from regulation by obtaining a license from the board:
- of The activity of installing, construction, or maintenance power systems for the generation and secondary distribution of electric current constructed under the provisions of the National Electrical Safety Code which regulates the safety



477 requirements of utilities.

- (2) To the installation, construction, maintenance, or repair of The activity of installing, constructing,

  maintaining, or repairing telephone or signal systems by or for public utilities or their corporate affiliates, when such work pertains to the services furnished by such utilities.
- (3) To any Any technician employed by a municipal franchised CATV system, when the work pertains to CATV.
- (4) To any master or journeyman electrician employed by a state licensee of the board or a licensee of a county or municipality where the contract work is being performed Any electrical worker who is employed, either directly or through a workforce staffing company, by a statewide licensee of the board.
  - (5) To the The owner of any premises or an employee of any such owner electrical worker employed by the premises owner when performing electrical work or installing, constructing, maintaining, altering, or repairing electrical wiring, equipment, or apparatus on such premises.
  - (6) To an An employee of an electric utility when installing or repairing electric appliances and equipment for a customer.
- the installation of or the repair or maintenance on any appliance that the merchant has sold; or to any modular or manufacturer of the modular housing industry within the state which is regulated by state and federal governments.
  - (8) To the installation, construction, or maintenance

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- 505 of The activity of installing, constructing, or maintaining
  506 systems that operate on 25 volts or less.
- 507 (9) To the installation, construction, or maintenance
  508 of The activity of installing, constructing, or maintaining
  509 direct broadcast satellite services.

- 510 (10) The activity of an electrical worker when properly
  511 responsible to a licensee of the board.
  - (b) (1) No license shall be issued by the board without an examination of the applicant for the purpose of ascertaining his or her qualifications for such the work, but no such. Reciprocal licensees are exempt from reexamination by the board. No examination shall be required for the annual renewal of such a license.
  - authorities of each county—and\_or municipality in the State of Alabama\_state from exercising their authority to require any person—engaging in the electrical contracting business or performing work as a master or journeyman electrician to stand and attain a passing grade on an examination administered by such county or municipality to evidence their ability and proficiency to engage in the electrical contracting business or to perform work as a master or journeyman electrician within their jurisdiction; provided, however, that any person who holds a valid statewide license issued by the board shall be deemed qualified and, upon satisfactory proof of the license, shall be allowed to perform forthwith electrical work in any county or municipality under the terms and conditions set forth in this chapter, if such person has the proper



533 county or municipal building permit and business license to

534 purchase a local license or permit to perform work within the

535 jurisdiction of the county or municipality.

- (c) All persons performing work under a license issued by the board must abide by all state and local laws and ordinances."
- 539 "\$34-36-16

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- 540 (a) Except as provided in Section 13A-9-111.1, it shall 541 be unlawful for any person to violate any provision of this 542 chapter regulating electrical contracting, and any person 543 convicted of such violation shall be punished as prescribed 544 for a Class A misdemeanor.
  - (b) It shall be unlawful, except as otherwise provided, on or after December 31, 2011, for a person not licensed as an electrical contractor to solicit, represent, seek to perform, or perform those tasks and functions that can only be performed by a licensed electrical contractor in accordance with this chapter.
- 551 (c) Subsection (b) shall not apply to an electrical 552 contractor who has taken an examination offered by the board 553 within the preceding 12 months, who holds a license or permit 554 issued by a county or municipal government to perform the 555 tasks and functions that can only be performed by a licensed 556 electrical contractor, and who performs those tasks and functions within the boundaries of the county or municipality 557 558 that issued the license or permit."
  - Section 2. Although this bill would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of



561	local funds, the bill is excluded from further requirements
562	and application under Section 111.05 of the Constitution of
563	Alabama of 2022, because the bill defines a new crime or
564	amends the definition of an existing crime.
565	Section 3. This act shall become effective on the first
566	day of the third month following its passage and approval by
567	the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.