

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1478

By: Representative Lynch

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ELIMINATE REQUIRED RE-TESTING OF AN ELECTRICIAN WHO FAILS TO TIMELY RENEW HIS OR HER LICENSE; TO PROVIDE MONETARY PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO TIMELY RENEW A LICENSE; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ELIMINATE REQUIRED RE-TESTING OF AN ELECTRICIAN WHO FAILS TO TIMELY RENEW HIS OR HER LICENSE; TO PROVIDE MONETARY PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO TIMELY RENEW A LICENSE; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-28-301(b), concerning the issuance and renewal of an electrician's license and fees associated with the license, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) Licenses shall expire on the date indicated on the licenses. ~~Licenses shall expire on the last day of the month, one (1) year following the date of the original license.~~

(2) The license may be renewed for a period of one (1), two (2), or three (3) years with the fee to be as follows:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| (A) Master electrician | \$50.00 per year |
| (B) Journeyman electrician | 25.00 per year |
| (C) Industrial maintenance electrician | 25.00 per |

year



(D) Residential master electrician 50.00 per year

(E) Residential journeyman electrician 25.00 per year

(F) Air conditioning electrician 25.00 per year

(G) Specialist sign electrician 25.00 per year.

(3) ~~Any~~ A licensee may renew his or her license within ~~six (6)~~ thirty-six (36) months following the expiration date on the license by ~~paying: the renewal fee as indicated in subdivision (b)(2) of this section.~~

(A) The renewal fee under subdivision (b)(2) of this section;

(B) A late fee equal to one (1) year of the renewal fee plus ten dollars (\$10.00) for each calendar month between the expiration date indicated on the license and the date of application for renewal; and

(C) Any outstanding monetary civil penalty.

(4) If a licensee shall fail to renew his or her license within ~~six (6)~~ thirty-six (36) months after the expiration date on the license, the licensee may ~~renew~~ reinstate his or her license by ~~paying: a penalty of ten dollars (\$10.00) for a journeyman or residential journeyman electrician, ten dollars (\$10.00) for an industrial maintenance electrician or air conditioning electrician, and twenty dollars (\$20.00) for a master electrician or a residential master electrician, in addition to the regular renewal fees.~~

(A) The fees and any applicable penalty under subdivision (b)(3) of this section; and

(B) An additional penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

~~(5)(A) If the license is not renewed within one (1) year after the expiration date on the license, the licensee shall be required to take another examination as administered by the Board of Electrical Examiners of the State of Arkansas~~ The Board of Electrical Examiners of the State of Arkansas may, after hearing, deny renewal or reinstatement of a license for cause.

(B) The applicant for renewal or reinstatement of a license may obtain a temporary license to expire on the date of his or her hearing before the board.

(6) If a person simultaneously holds an electrical inspector license and a license as a master electrician or a journeyman electrician, the person, when renewing his or her master electrician or journeyman electrician license, shall be exempt from the:

(A) Renewal fee under this section; and

(B) Continuing education requirements for master electricians and journeyman electricians under § 17-28-311.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-28-311 is amended to read as follows:
17-28-311. Continuing education requirement.

(a) ~~No~~ A journeyman electrician ~~license licensee~~ or master electrician ~~license licensee~~ shall be renewed unless the licensee ~~complete~~ complete at least eight (8) hours of continuing education for each National Electrical Code cycle before renewing his or her license.

(b) If a licensee fails to obtain the required continuing education hours within a National Electrical Code cycle under subsection (a) of this section, the licensee may not renew his or her license until the licensee:

(1) Obtains the required continuing education hours and submits proof of completion of the continuing education hours to the Department of Labor as required by the rules of the Board of Electrical Examiners of the State of Arkansas; and

(2) Pays all fees and penalties required under § 17-28-301.

~~(b)(1)(c)~~ (c) The Board of Electrical Examiners of the State of Arkansas shall promulgate rules to set standards for continuing education for licensees under this section.

~~(2) The rules shall include, but not be limited to, provisions of the National Electrical Code, as in effect on January 1, 2005.~~

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that an electrician relies on a license to sustain his or her livelihood and provide for his or her family; that requiring re-testing in lieu of a penalty places a significant financial hardship on an electrician and delays the electrician's ability to legally work; and that this act is immediately necessary because it provides an equitable solution for the efficient renewal of an electrician's license. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately

necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

APPROVED: 03/06/2017