

# HOUSE BILL 270

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By: **Delegate Haddaway–Ricchio**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2013

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Electrical Inspectors and Plumbing Inspectors – Master License Required**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a county or local government to employ as electrical  
4 inspectors only individuals who hold, or have previously held within a certain  
5 period of time under certain circumstances, a State license or local license, as  
6 applicable, to provide electrical services as a master electrician or who are  
7 certified by certain entities; requiring a county or local government to employ as  
8 plumbing inspectors only individuals who hold a master plumber license issued  
9 by certain entities; providing certain exceptions to certain requirements of this  
10 Act; providing for the scope of certain provisions of this Act; providing for the  
11 application of this Act; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally  
12 relating to licensing requirements for electrical inspectors and plumbing  
13 inspectors.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
15 Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
16 Section 6–101(a), (g), (h), and (k) and 12–101(a) and (l)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
20 Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
21 Section 6–313, 12–103, and 12–503  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
25 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

26 **Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 6–101.

2 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (g) “Local license” means, unless the context requires otherwise, a license  
4 that is issued by a local board to provide electrical services as a master electrician.

5 (h) “Master electrician” means an individual who has the experience,  
6 knowledge, and skill to provide electrical services in all aspects of the electrical trade,  
7 in a manner that complies with applicable plans, specifications, codes, or law.

8 (k) “State license” means a license that is issued by the State Board to a  
9 master electrician.

10 6–313.

11 (A) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS  
12 SUBSECTION, A COUNTY OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY EMPLOY AN INDIVIDUAL  
13 AS AN ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR ONLY IF THE INDIVIDUAL:

14 (I) HOLDS A STATE LICENSE OR LOCAL LICENSE, AS  
15 APPLICABLE;

16 (II) PREVIOUSLY HELD, WITHIN THE LAST 5 YEARS, A STATE  
17 LICENSE OR LOCAL LICENSE, AS APPLICABLE, THAT WAS NOT SUSPENDED OR  
18 REVOKED; OR

19 (III) IS CERTIFIED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL  
20 AS A COMBINATION INSPECTOR OR BY THE NORTH AMERICAN BOARD OF  
21 CERTIFIED ENERGY PRACTITIONERS.

22 (2) PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A  
23 COUNTY OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT USES COMBINATION BUILDING CODE  
24 INSPECTORS TO CONDUCT CONCURRENT TRADE-SPECIFIC INSPECTIONS ON  
25 RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS TO DETERMINE COMPLIANCE WITH  
26 ADOPTED ELECTRICAL CODES AND BUILDING CODES.

27 [(a)] (B) An individual may not have any financial interest in any electrical  
28 business while employed by the State, a county, or a local government as an electrical  
29 inspector.

30 [(b)] (C) (1) On appointment or employment as an electrical inspector,  
31 the individual:

1 (i) shall place the State license of the individual on inactive  
2 status; and

3 (ii) except for the renewal fee, shall meet the inactive status  
4 requirements of § 6–311 of this subtitle.

5 (2) The State Board may issue an electrical inspector identification  
6 card to an electrical inspector who has placed the State license on inactive status.

7 (3) The State Board may not charge a fee to issue the identification  
8 card.

9 **[(c)] (D)** The State Board may change the status of an electrical inspector to  
10 individual inactive status, if the electrical inspector:

11 (1) meets the inactive status requirements of § 6–311 of this subtitle;  
12 and

13 (2) pays an inactive status fee of \$50.

14 **[(d)] (E)** On termination of the appointment or employment of an individual  
15 as an electrical inspector, the State Board shall reactivate the State license of the  
16 individual who is on inactive status, without examination, if the individual meets the  
17 reactivation requirements for a State license under § 6–311(f) of this subtitle,  
18 including payment of the reactivation fee.

19 12–101.

20 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

21 (1) (1) “Master plumber” means, unless the context requires otherwise, an  
22 individual who is licensed by the Board to provide plumbing services and natural gas  
23 services.

24 (2) “Master plumber” includes a master plumber gas fitter.

25 12–103.

26 (a) Except as expressly provided in §§ 12–305 **[and]**, 12–307, **AND**  
27 **12–503(B)** of this title, this title does not apply to Baltimore County.

28 (b) Except as expressly provided in §§ 12–305 **[and]**, 12–307, **AND**  
29 **12–503(B)** of this title, this title does not apply to areas of Montgomery and Prince  
30 George’s counties that are under the jurisdiction of the Washington Suburban  
31 Sanitary Commission.

1 12-503.

2 (a) Each individual whom the State, a county, or a local government appoints  
3 or employs as a plumbing inspector shall:

4 (1) each year attend a continuing education course that the Board or,  
5 with the approval of the Board, a county or local government conducts; and

6 (2) meet minimum standards that:

7 (i) adequately ensure that the plumbing inspector is qualified  
8 to inspect in accordance with the State Plumbing Code;

9 (ii) are established:

10 1. by the county or local government in consultation  
11 with the Board; or

12 2. if there is no standard established by the county or  
13 local government, by the Board; and

14 (iii) are administered:

15 1. for a county or local government inspector, by the  
16 county or local government that appoints or employs the inspector; and

17 2. for a State inspector, by the State.

18 **(B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**  
19 **SUBSECTION, A COUNTY OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY EMPLOY AN INDIVIDUAL**  
20 **AS A PLUMBING INSPECTOR ONLY IF THE INDIVIDUAL HOLDS A MASTER**  
21 **PLUMBER LICENSE ISSUED BY THE BOARD, THE BALTIMORE COUNTY**  
22 **PLUMBING BOARD, OR THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION.**

23 **(2) PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A**  
24 **COUNTY OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT USES COMBINATION BUILDING CODE**  
25 **INSPECTORS TO CONDUCT CONCURRENT TRADE-SPECIFIC INSPECTIONS ON**  
26 **RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS TO DETERMINE COMPLIANCE WITH**  
27 **ADOPTED PLUMBING CODES AND BUILDING CODES IF THE COMBINATION**  
28 **BUILDING CODE INSPECTOR HAS PASSED A MASTER PLUMBER EXAMINATION**  
29 **GIVEN IN THE STATE AS PART OF THE INSPECTOR'S TRAINING.**

30 **[(b)] (C)** An individual may not have any financial interest in any plumbing  
31 business while employed by the State, a county, or any local government as a  
32 plumbing inspector.

1            **[(c)] (D)**     (1)    On appointment or employment, the individual shall place  
2 the master plumber license, journey plumber license, or limited license on inactive  
3 status.

4            (2)     The Board may issue a plumbing inspector identification card to a  
5 plumbing inspector who has placed the appropriate license on inactive status.

6            (3)     On termination of the appointment or employment of an individual  
7 as a plumbing inspector, the Board shall reactivate the master plumber license,  
8 journey plumber license, or limited license of an individual who is on inactive status,  
9 without examination, if the individual:

10                    (i)     makes a written request to the Board; and

11                    (ii)    pays to the Board a reactivation fee of:

12                            1.     \$20, for a journey plumber or holder of a limited  
13 journey plumber license; or

14                            2.     \$50, for a master plumber or holder of a limited  
15 master plumber license.

16            **[(d)] (E)**     The Board may impose a reasonable fee to cover the costs of  
17 conducting the continuing education courses under subsection (a) of this section.

18            SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be  
19 construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have  
20 any effect on or application to any electrical inspector or plumbing inspector employed  
21 by a county or local government before the effective date of this Act.

22            SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
23 January 1, 2014.