4AEXR3-1 04/05/2023 KMS (L) ccr 2023-1387

SEPRESITE

House Boards, Agencies and Commissions Reported Substitute for HB302

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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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 investigation of complaints, and providing for reciprocity; to provide an individual previously issued a provisional license 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 additional electrical contracting proficiency examination before issuing a local license to work within the county or municipality; and in connection therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Section



- 29 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022.
- 30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
- 31 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
- 33 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:
- 34 "\$34-36-3
- 35 <u>(a)</u> The following terms shall have the meanings
 36 respectively ascribed to them used in this chapter, for the
 37 purposes of this chapter, unless the context clearly requires
- 38 a different meaning:
- 39 (1) BOARD. The Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors.
- 40 (2) DIRECTOR. The Executive Director of the Alabama
- 41 Board of Electrical Contractors.
- 42 (3) ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING. Any job or project in the
- 43 State of Alabama wherein the electrical contractor proposes to
- 44 bid, install, maintain, alter, or repair any electric wiring
- 45 devices or equipment.
- 46 (4) ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR. Any person, firm, or
- 47 corporation who is engaged in the business of soliciting and
- 48 installing electrical power or control systems; maintaining,
- 49 altering, or repairing electrical power or control systems,
- 50 any electrical wiring devices, equipment, or any other
- 51 electrical apparatus. A person who possesses the necessary
- 52 qualifications, training, and technical knowledge to plan, lay
- 53 out, and supervise the installation of electrical wiring,
- 54 apparatus, or equipment for lighting, heating, power, or
- 55 controls and who possesses any of the following
- 56 qualifications:



- 57 a. Four years of practical experience as a journeyman selectrician in charge of jobs.
- 59 b. Four years of experience in the design and construction of electrical systems.
- 61 (5) ELECTRICAL WORKER. Any person who has received 62 training, or is receiving training, in the installation, 63 maintenance, and repair of electrical systems and circuitry 64 and has demonstrated skills and knowledge concerning the potential hazards of electricity. The position of electrical 65 worker does not require a license from the board. An 66 67 electrical worker may only perform electrical work in this state if he or she is any of the following: 68
- a. Employed by, and responsible to, a properly licensed electrical contractor.
- b. Employed by a company that employs a properly
 licensed electrical contractor and the electrical worker is
 responsible to that licensed electrical contractor.
 - c. Employed by a workforce staffing company that contracts to provide workers to a licensed electrical contractor and responsible to a licensed electrical contractor.

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(5) (6) JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIAN. A person who possesses necessary qualifications, training, and technical knowledge to install electrical wiring, apparatus, or equipment lighting, heating, or power or control covered by this chapter. He or she shall work under a master or state certified an electrical contractor and shall be capable of doing work according to plans and specifications furnished to him or her and in



accordance with standard rules and regulations governing such work.

(6) (7) LICENSE. A valid and current certificate of registration issued by the director on behalf of the board which shall give the named person to whom it is issued authority to engage in the activity prescribed thereon.

91 (7) (8) LICENSEE. Any person holding a license issued by the board.

(8) (9) PERSON. A human person, not a legal entity.

- (10) PROVISIONAL LICENSE. A person who holds a limited license issued by the board before August 31, 2012, to perform electrical contracting tasks and functions only within the boundaries and jurisdiction of the local authority where the licensee holds a local electrical contractor license.
- 99 (b) Additional terms may be defined by the board, by

 100 rule."
- 101 "\$34-36-4

- 102 (a) The Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors is
 103 created.
 - (b) A person to be eligible for appointment to serve on the board shall be a citizen and resident of Alabama. Each person appointed to the board from each congressional district shall be actively engaged in the electrical construction contracting business as a qualified person with electrical construction background of not less than five consecutive years, and shall hold certificates to validate his or her competence as an electrical contractor in the electrical construction field immediately preceding appointment. The two



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persons appointed to the board as at-large members shall be members of the Alabama State Electrical Workers Association.

The membership of the board should be inclusive and should reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural Governor shall coordinate his or her appointments to assure the board membership is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, 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 board member from the Seventh Congressional District as well as the at-large members shall be appointed for terms of three years. Thereafter, all board members shall be appointed for terms of three years. Each term shall expire on June 30 of the last year of the term, and no member shall serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. Vacancies on the board for any cause shall be filled by appointment by the Governor for the remainder of the unexpired term. Members shall serve until their successors are appointed.
- (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



- 141 election as an officer, a board member shall have served for
- 142 at least two years on the board at the time of election.
- 143 Special meetings of the board may be held as the board
- 144 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
- 147 quorum.
- 148 (e) The board may adopt rules—and regulations to carry
- 149 out this chapter.
- (f) Any member of the board or duly appointed hearing
- officer designated by the board may administer oaths and take
- 152 testimony concerning all matters within the jurisdiction of
- 153 the board.
- 154 (g) The board may sue and be sued in its official name.
- 155 Absent negligence, wantonness, recklessness, or deliberate
- 156 misconduct, members of the board are immune from liability for
- 157 all good faith acts performed in the execution of their duties
- 158 of the board.
- (h) The board shall adopt a seal for its use containing
- 160 the words: Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors' Licensing
- 161 Board Contractors.
- (i) The board may employ, and at its pleasure
- discharge, an executive director. The board may hire other
- 164 officers, attorneys, and administrative employees which may be
- 165 necessary to implement this chapter. The board may employ, on
- 166 an as needed basis, an investigator investigators to
- 167 investigate complaints. The board shall not employ electrical
- 168 inspectors nor provide for any electrical inspections. The



- board shall outline the duties and fix the compensation and expense allowances of all employees pursuant to the Merit
- 171 System Act of Alabama.
- 172 (j) The board is subject to the Alabama Sunset Law and
- is classified as an enumerated agency pursuant to Section
- 174 41-20-3. The board shall automatically terminate on October 1,
- 175 2012, and every four years thereafter, unless a bill is
- 176 enacted that the board be continued, modified, or
- 177 reestablished.
- 178 (k) Each board member shall be accountable to the
- 179 Governor for the proper performance of his or her duties as a
- 180 member of the board. The Governor shall investigate any
- 181 complaints or unfavorable reports concerning the actions of
- the board and shall take appropriate action thereon, including
- 183 removal of any board member for misfeasance, malfeasance,
- 184 neglect of duty, commission of a felony, incompetence, or
- 185 permanent inability to perform official duties. A board member
- 186 may be removed at the request of the board after failing to
- 187 attend three consecutive properly noticed meetings."
- 188 "\$34-36-6
- 189 (a) By rule, the board shall make provisions to do all
- 190 of the following:
- 191 (1) Prepare or approve all examinations of applicants
- 192 for licenses for electrical contractors and journeyman
- 193 electricians.
- 194 (2) Determine the qualifications of electrical
- 195 contractors to engage in the business of electrical
- 196 contracting.



- 197 (3) Determine the qualifications of journeyman
 198 electricians to engage in electrical work.
- 199 (4) Provide for the investigation of written complaints
 200 filed with the board concerning alleged violations of this
 201 chapter and any rules adopted by the board.
- 202 (5) Conduct investigations. The board may subpoena 203 204 cords, and papers the board deems pertinent to any matter ler investigation. The board, by order of the chair or 205 ecutive director, may require any person to produce within 206 207 -state, at a reasonable time and place as the board may 208 designate, any books, documents, records, or papers kept in 209 any office or place without or within this state, or certified pies thereof, whenever the production is reasonably required 210 211 and pertinent to any matter under investigation before or by board, in order that an examination may be made by the 212 ard, or by any person employed by the board. 213 214 (6) (5) Investigate written complaints relating to 215 faulty, inefficient, unlicensed, or unsafe electrical work 216 likely to endanger life, health, or property.
 - (7)-(6) Provide for reciprocity with other states in the registration and licensing of electrical contractors and journeyman electricians, provided that those other states have requirements substantially equal to or greater than the requirements of this state for registration and licensure and that a similar privilege is offered to licensees of this board.

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(b) The board may suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue



or renew a license and impose a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000), after notice and opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the Alabama
Administrative Procedure Act, upon proof of any of the 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 guilty, 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 electrical contracting or to work as a master electrician or journeyman electrician.
- (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.



- 253 (6) Practicing—on_with a revoked, suspended, or 254 inactive license.
- 255 (7) Aiding or abetting any person to evade any provision of this chapter.
- 257 (8) Knowingly combining or conspiring with any person 258 by allowing one's license to be used by any unlicensed person 259 with the intent to evade this chapter. When a licensee allows 260 his or her license to be used by any firm, partnership, 261 association, or corporation without having any active 262 participation in the operations or management of the firm, 263 partnership, association, or corporation, such the act constitutes prima facie evidence of an intent to evade this 264 265 chapter.
- 266 (9) Acting in the capacity of a contractor under any 267 license issued under this chapter except in the name of the 268 licensee as set forth on the issued license.

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- 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:
- 285 (1) Deny an application for licensure with cause.
- 286 (2) Impose an administrative fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
 - (3) Issue a cease and desist order.

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- (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 fines authorized 296 297 in subsections (b) and (c), the board may require any person 298 or licensee who is found to be in violation of Section 34-36-2 299 or subsection (b) or (c), after notice and opportunity for a 300 hearing pursuant to the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act, 301 to pay the costs, fees, and expenses of the board incurred in 302 connection with any related proceedings before the board. 303 Payment of any costs, fees, and expenses ordered by the board 304 shall be made and enforced in the same manner as an 305 administrative fine. For the purposes of this subsection, costs shall include, but not be limited to, all of the 306 307 following:
 - (1) Investigative fees and expenses.



309	(2) Reasonable and necessary attorney fees and
310	expenses.
311	(3) Actual costs related to expert testimony.
312	(4) Witness travel expenses.
313	(5) Deposition costs.
314	(6) Travel expenses for board staff.
315	(7) Charges incurred for obtaining documentary
316	evidence.
317	(8) Other categories of expenses incurred by the board.
318	(f) The board, by rule, may provide a schedule of costs
319	or fines, or both, that may be imposed upon any person or
320	licensee who has violated Section 34-36-2 or subsection (b) or
321	(c). The maximum costs or fines levied for each violation may
322	<pre>not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) each."</pre>
323	" §34-36-7
324	(a) All applicants for licensure <u>must</u> shall submit a
325	completed application, application fee, and supportive
326	documentation of qualifications before taking an examination
327	approved by the board. The board shall examine applicants at
328	least once every three months according to the method deemed
329	by it to be the most appropriate to test the qualifications of
330	applicants. Any national standardized or written examination
331	proctored by an independent third party which the board shall
332	approve as substantially similar to the examination required
333	to be licensed under this chapter may be administered to all
334	applicants in lieu of or in conjunction with any other
335	examination which the board shall give to test the
336	qualifications of applicants. The board shall also have the



right to may establish such norms of achievement as shall be
required for a passing grade. The board may, by rule, may
adopt the National Electrical Code for the purpose of
examinations.

(b) The board may recognize a license issued by any other state that, in the opinion of the board, has standards of practice or licensure equal to or higher than those required by this state. The board shall actively seek to reciprocate with those states meeting such standards. The board shall actively seek to maintain those states currently under agreement.

(e) (b) No license shall be issued except in compliance with this chapter and none shall be issued except to a person or a person in a firm, partnership, association, or corporation. A firm, partnership, association, or corporation, as such, shall not be licensed. A licensee shall be a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government.

(d) An individual who has successfully passed, on or before January 1, 2010, with a minimum score of 70 percent, or an individual who has successfully passed after January 1, 2010, with a minimum score of 75 percent, a nationally standardized proctored electrical examination administered in the State of Alabama, by Block and Associates, International Code Council, Experior, Promissor, Thomson Prometric, PROV, or any other exam approved by the board, shall be deemed to be in compliance with the testing requirement set forth by the board



this qualification shall also be required to complete all other qualifications set forth by this chapter and the board prior to issuance of an electrical contractor license.

Electrical contractor applicants affected by this provision shall have until July 1, 2011, to apply for licensure without any further examination requirements.

(c) An individual holding a provisional license issued by the board shall have three calendar years after the effective date of the act adding this subsection to take and pass a nationally standardized proctored electrical examination approved by the board for licensure without any further examination requirements. If the provisional licensee does not pass the examination within those three years, the provisional license shall expire. A provisional license that expires may not be renewed. The board shall waive the examination fee one time during the three-year time period provided by this subsection."

"§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."

406 "\$34-36-9

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."



421 "\$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, constructing, or maintaining 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 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



449	board.
450	(5) To the The owner or property manager of any
451	premises or an employee of any such owner electrical worker
452	employed by the premises owner any full-time, part-time, or
453	<pre>contract employee of any such owner or property manager when</pre>
454	performing electrical work or installing, constructing,
455	maintaining, altering, or repairing electrical wiring,
456	equipment, or apparatus on such premises.
457	(6) To an An employee of an electric utility when
458	installing or repairing electric appliances and equipment for
459	a customer.
460	(7) To any Any retail merchant, or its employees making
461	the installation of or the repair or maintenance on any
462	appliance that the merchant has sold; or to any modular or
463	manufacturer of the modular housing industry within the state
464	which is regulated by state and federal governments.
465	(8) To the installation, construction, or maintenance
466	of The activity of installing, constructing, or maintaining
467	systems that operate on 25 volts or less.
468	(9) To the installation, construction, or maintenance
469	of The activity of installing, constructing, or maintaining
470	direct broadcast satellite services.
471	(10) The activity of an electrical worker when properly
472	responsible to a licensee of the board.
473	(11) Any contractor licensed pursuant to Chapter 31 or
474	Chapter 37 connecting any appliance, device, equipment, or
475	other electrical item to the electrical system of the

structure or building while working within the scope of his or



her license, provided the connection is to the nearest

breaker, disconnect, or junction box to the item being

connected.

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- (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.
- (2) This section shall in no way prohibit the governing 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 to perform work as a master or journeyman electrician within their jurisdiction; provided, however, that who holds a valid statewide license issued by the board shall deemed qualified and, upon satisfactory proof of the license, shall be allowed to perform forthwith electrical work any county or municipality under the terms and conditions set forth in this chapter, if such person has the county or municipal building permit and business license to purchase a local license or permit to perform work within the jurisdiction of the county or municipality.
 - (c) All persons performing work under a license issued



505 by the board must abide by all state and local laws and 506 ordinances."

"\$34-36-16 507

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- (a) Except as provided in Section 13A-9-111.1, it shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision of this chapter regulating electrical contracting, and any person convicted of such violation shall be punished as prescribed for a Class A misdemeanor.
- 513 (b) It shall be unlawful, except as otherwise provided, on or after December 31, 2011, for a person not licensed as an 514 515 electrical contractor to solicit, represent, seek to perform, 516 or perform those tasks and functions that can only be 517 performed by a licensed electrical contractor in accordance 518 with this chapter.
 - (c) Subsection (b) shall not apply to an electrical contractor who has taken an examination offered by the board within the preceding 12 months, who holds a license or permit issued by a county or municipal government to perform the tasks and functions that can only be performed by a licensed electrical contractor, and who performs those tasks and functions within the boundaries of the county or municipality that issued the license or permit."

527 Section 2. Although this bill would have as its purpose 528 or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of 529 local funds, the bill is excluded from further requirements 530 and application under Section 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, because the bill defines a new crime or 531

amends the definition of an existing crime. 532



533		Sect	ion	3.	This	act	shall	beco	me	effec	tive	on	the	first	-
534	day of	the	thir	rd	month	fol	lowing	its	pas	ssage	and	app:	roval	by	
535	the Go	verno	r, c	or	its o	ther	wise be	ecomi	ing	law.					