



**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ROOM**  
**400 HIGH STREET**  
**CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND**

**AGENDA**

Thursday, October 3, 2024

8:30 a.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ACTION ITEMS**

Adoption of Meeting Minutes for August 1, 2024

Discuss Construction Trades Board

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

**STAFF REPORTS**

**ADJOURN**

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings in person or via conference call.

Public participation and audio-only call-in number:

Call: **1-872-239-8359**

Phone Conference ID: **257 798 486#**

PHONE PARTICIPATION – Members of the public are asked to mute their phones/devices, until the Chair opens the floor for comment. Please note that phone participation is dependent on service carriers and internet providers, this option may not be available for all meetings or be available during the entire meeting. In-person attendance is always recommended.

ONLINE VIEWING – Please note that although many meetings are recorded, the availability of video online is dependent on internet availability and functionality. Some members of the public may be able to watch a live video feed and/or view the video after the meeting at the County's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@kentcountygovernment2757>.

PROTOCOL – Meetings are conducted in open session unless otherwise indicated. All or part of the meetings can be held in closed session under the authority of the MD Open Meetings Law by vote of the members. Breaks are at the call of the Chair. Meetings are subject to audio and video recordings. All applicants will be given the time necessary to assure full public participation and a fair and complete review of all projects. Agenda items are subject to change due to cancellations.

**THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**November 6, 2024  
Legislative Session Day**

**Legislative Session Day  
November 6, 2024**

**CODE HOME RULE  
BILL NO. X-2024**

INTRODUCED BY: Ronald H. Fithian, President of the Board of County Commissioners for Kent County, Maryland.

AN ACT to amend the Public Local Laws of Kent County, Maryland, by revising Chapter 73, Building Construction; Chapter 192, Housing Standards; and Chapter 210, (Reserved), in order to create a new board, the Kent County, Maryland, specifically, the Construction Trades Board, which will incorporate the existing Board of Electrical Examiners and its members, while adding additional members to represent other trades and industry sectors, and to provide membership for the Board of Building Appeals as may be needed, when an appeal is filed pursuant to the International Building Code.

**THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald H. Fithian, President

INTRODUCED, read first time, March 19, 2024, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled **Month X**, 2024, at **a.m. / p.m.** in the County Commissioners Hearing Room, R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr., Kent County Government Center, 400 High Street, Chestertown, Maryland.

By order of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sondra M. Blackiston, Clerk

**PUBLIC HEARING**

HAVING been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and copies having been made available to the public and the press, a public hearing was held on **Month X**, 2024. Reported favorably **[with] [without]** amendments; read a second time and ordered to be considered on **Month X**, 2024, a legislative session day.

BILL NO. X-2021

**CAPITALS AND BOLD INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

~~Strike through~~ indicates matter deleted from existing law.

**A BILL ENTITLED CHR X-2024 CONSTRUCTION TRADES BOARD**

**SECTION 1.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED** by the County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland that Chapter 73 *Building Construction*, of the Code of Public Local Laws of Kent County, Maryland is hereby amended as follows:

PART II, GENERAL LEGISLATION

Chapter 73

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

§ 73-1 Adoption of standards; conflicting provisions.

**A. WITHIN 18 MONTHS OF THE OFFICIAL DATE OF ITS ADOPTION BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND, KENT COUNTY SHALL ENFORCE THE STATE-ADOPTED VERSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL’S (ICC) International Building Code (2009 Edition) (the IBC) as may be modified by the STATE OF Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the ICC International Residential Code (2009 Edition) (the IRC) as may be modified by the STATE OF Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, THE ICC INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE AS MAY BE MODIFIED BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND, THE ICC INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE AS MAY BE MODIFIED BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND, and the International Energy Conservation Code (2009 Edition) (the IECC) as may be modified by the STATE OF Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, NFPA 1: FIRE CODE AS MAY BE MODIFIED BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND, NFPA 70: NATIONAL ELECTRIC CODE AS MAY BE MODIFIED BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND, NFPA 855: STANDARD FOR THE INSTALLATION OF STATIONARY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS AS MAY BE MODIFIED BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND, NFPA 101 LIFE SAFETY CODE AS MAY BE MODIFIED BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND, and as amended from time to time. THE AFOREMENTIONED CODES are hereby adopted and incorporated into the PUBLIC LOCAL LAWS of Kent County as if fully set out herein, for the purpose of controlling all matters pertaining to the construction, alteration, addition, removal, demolition, use, location, occupancy, and maintenance of all structures, except as revised or amended herein.**

~~B. The International Mechanical Code (2006 Edition), as may be modified by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, and as amended from time to time, is hereby adopted and incorporated into the law of Kent County as if fully set out herein for the purpose of providing minimum requirements for safe mechanical systems in residential buildings and all other buildings wherein mechanical systems are installed.~~

~~C. B. In the event of any conflict between the provisions found in the IBC, IRC, AFOREMENTIONED CODES and the Kent County Land Use Ordinance, the MORE RESTRICTIVE provisions of the Kent~~

BILL NO. X-2024

**CAPITALS AND BOLD INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

~~Strike through~~ indicates matter deleted from existing law.

County Land Use Ordinance shall apply.

§ 73-2 Continuation of existing use.

The legal use and occupancy of any structure existing on the date of adoption of this code ~~or for which it has been heretofore approved shall be continued without change, except as may be specifically covered in this code or as may be deemed necessary by the Building Code Administrator for the general safety and welfare of the occupants and the public~~ **SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 222, UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE.**

...

§ 73-5 Administrator.

The County Commissioners shall designate a **CONTRACTOR TO SERVE AS THE KENT COUNTY BUILDING OFFICIAL** / Building Code Administrator (hereinafter "Code Administrator"). In the event that a Building **OFFICIAL** / **BUILDING CODE** Administrator has not been appointed, the appointing authority shall designate a person or agency to be responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Building Codes.

...

§ 73-8 Inspections.

A. After issuing a building permit, the Code Administrator shall conduct such inspections from time to time during and upon completion of the work for which the permit has been issued. A record of all such examinations and inspections and of all violations of this code shall be maintained by the Code Administrator (or his authorized agent) of its readiness for an inspection of the completed phases of construction as listed below:

- (1) Phase 1. Site review and footing/foundation excavation (in advance of foundation construction, e.g., concrete placement).
- (2) Phase 2. Foundation structure inspection prior to backfilling and framing, including parging, waterproofing and drain tile (where required).
- (3) Phase 3. ~~Completed structural framing. This inspection is not required for single family and duplex dwellings.~~
- (4) ~~Phase 4.~~ Framing inspection at the completion of rough-in plumbing, electrical and heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) work, prior to insulation and prior to interior finishes.
- (5) ~~(4)~~ Phase ~~5~~ **4**. Insulation inspection.
- (6) ~~(5)~~ Phase ~~6~~ **5**. Final inspection of the finished building, including compliance with handicap code

BILL NO. **X**-2024

**CAPITALS AND BOLD INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

~~Strike through~~ indicates matter deleted from existing law.

requirements per ~~Section 512.1 of the BOCA National Building Code~~, **THE APPROPRIATE AFOREMENTIONED ICC ADOPTED CODES**, grading and required erosion control measures and the determination that the building is ready for use, safe and substantially complete.

...  
§ 73-9.1 Automatic residential fire sprinkler systems in one- and two-family dwellings.

Single-family and two-family dwellings must have an automatic residential fire sprinkler system installed as required by the State of Maryland. Such systems must be designed and installed by a licensed sprinkler contractor with a current license issued by the State of Maryland. Mobile homes that comply with HUD standards and are appropriately documented are not required to have a residential fire sprinkler system.

~~Chapter 3, Section R313.2, of the International Residential Code, which requires automatic fire sprinkler systems in one- and two-family dwellings, is hereby deleted, and new Chapter 3, Section R313.2, provisions are inserted as follows:~~

**R 313.2** ~~One- and two-family dwelling automatic fire systems. Effective January 1, 2011, a~~ **An automatic residential fire sprinkler system shall be offered as an option to be installed in all newly constructed one- and two-family dwellings built solely for the owner's own occupancy under the following provisions:**

(a) ~~Option to buyer. A seller of a newly constructed one- or two-family dwelling shall offer the initial buyer or owner an option to install a residential automatic fire sprinkler system.~~

(b) ~~Disclosure of information. The real estate sales contract for the construction or sale of a new one- or two-family dwelling shall disclose the estimated cost of installing a residential automatic sprinkler system and the anticipated estimate to maintain such system. The buyer shall acknowledge receipt of the sprinkler option notification regarding the installation of a residential sprinkler system and shall indicate whether the buyer intends to exercise the option to install a residential sprinkler system to improve the life and safety of the occupants and to reduce property damage from fire.~~

(c) ~~Every home constructed as a spec house, rental or part of a marketing campaign to sell one- or two-family dwellings shall contain a residential automatic sprinkler system.~~

(d) ~~Before issuing a building permit, the Department of Planning, Housing and Zoning shall require the applicant to submit a signed and notarized sprinkler option notification indicating compliance with the provisions of this section.~~

(e) ~~The Department of Planning, Housing and Zoning shall withhold the issuance of a building permit for the construction of a new one- or two-family dwelling that does not meet the provisions of this section in regard to notification to the buyer and submission of all necessary documentation.~~

(f) **Exceptions:**

1. ~~An automatic residential fire sprinkler system shall not be required for additions or alterations to one- or two-family dwellings that are not already provided with an automatic sprinkler system.~~

BILL NO. **X**-2024

**CAPITALS AND BOLD INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

~~Strike through~~ indicates matter deleted from existing law.

~~2. Mandatory automatic sprinkler systems may be required for new one or two family dwellings constructed with the boundaries of the incorporated municipalities of Kent County.~~

...

§ 73-12 Board of Building Appeals; **REFERENCE TO CHAPTER 210; ADDITIONAL STANDARDS.**

A. Membership of Board. The Board of Building Appeals, hereinafter referred to as the "Board of Appeals," shall consist of ~~three (3) members appointed by the County Commissioners of Kent County, one (1) member to be appointed for three (3) years, one (1) member for two (2) years and one (1) member for one (1) year, and thereafter each new member shall be appointed for three (3) years or until his/her successor has been appointed.~~ **OF THE CONSTRUCTION TRADES BOARD** An alternate shall be appointed to serve in the absence of a regular member **AS SET FORTH IN CHAPTER 210 OF THE PUBLIC LOCAL LAWS OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND.**

B. Qualifications of Board members. At least one (1) **MEMBER** of the ~~three (3) members of the~~ **SEATED** Board of Appeals **DURING AN APPEAL HEARING** shall be a licensed architect or professional engineer, construction superintendent or general contractor with at least ten (10) years' experience.

C. Adjourned meeting. When three (3) members are not present to consider a specific appeal, the hearing shall be postponed if requested by either the appellant, the Code Administrator or their representative(s).

D. Action of the Board. The Board shall affirm, modify or reverse the decision of the Code Administrator by concurring vote of at least two (2) members of the Board.

E. Determining vote. Failure to secure a majority vote of the Board in support of the appellant shall be confirmation of the Code Administrator's decision.

F. Court review. An appeal to the Circuit Court for Kent County from a decision of the Board may be filed in the manner as set forth in **TITLE 7, Chapter 400 200** of the Maryland Rules. **[Is this correct, Tom?]**

...

§ 73-16 ~~Modifications to standards~~ **RESERVED.**

~~The present Chapter 192, Part 2, Electrical Standards, and Part 3, Plumbing Standards, shall apply for plumbing and electrical codes, permits and inspections requested. The inspections requested, when possible, should be coordinated by the Building Code Administrator.~~

...

§ 73-18 Enforcement; violations and penalties.

**A. WHEN VIOLATIONS OCCUR, THE BUILDING CODE ADMINISTRATOR MAY REFER SUCH VIOLATIONS TO THE KENT COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE WITHIN THE**

BILL NO. **X**-2024

**CAPITALS AND BOLD INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

~~Strike through~~ indicates matter deleted from existing law.

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, HOUSING, AND ZONING SO THE OWNER CAN BE CITED.**

If the notice of violation is not complied with in the time period stated in the notice of violation, the ~~Building Code Administrator~~ **CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE** shall request the County Attorney or any other designated attorney to institute the appropriate proceeding at law or to require the removal or termination of the unlawful use of the building or structure in violation of the provisions of this code or of the order or direction made pursuant thereto.

B. It shall be the duty of the Administrator to enforce the provisions of this chapter and to refuse to ~~issue~~ **APPROVE** any permit which would violate the provisions of this chapter. It shall be the duty of all officers and employees of Kent County to assist the enforcing officer ~~by reporting to him any seeming violation of this chapter,~~ **AS MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF KENT COUNTY LAWS.**

C. The ~~Administrator~~ **CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE** is authorized and directed to institute any appropriate action to correct violations of this chapter.

D. Any person, firm, corporation or other legal entity violating any provision of this chapter or any amendment thereto, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.) ~~or may be imprisoned for a period of not more than thirty (30) days, or may be subject to both fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.~~ Each and every day during which such violation occurs or continues may be deemed a separate offense.

E. If a person is found by the District Court to have committed a civil violation, in addition to the penalties set forth above, ~~he~~ **SUCH PERSON** shall be liable for the cost of the proceedings in the District Court. All building permits shall be revocable subject to the continued compliance with all requirements and conditions of this and other applicable laws and regulations.

...

§ 73-20 Exemption for Solar APP+ from Electrical Code

Pursuant to Maryland 2024 House Bill 1265 “Local Government – Building Permits for Residential Solar Energy and Residential Energy Storage Systems – Required Platform and Inspections,” all applications for solar rooftop installations subject to the required review by the web-based platform Solar APP+ are hereby exempted from the requirements for compliance with the electrical code in order to meet State requirements. Said exemption is limited to only those requirements within the current electrical code, which are in direct conflict with adopted State law. All other requirements are to be enforced and required for final inspection.

§ 73-21 Adoption of local design criteria per IRC Table R301.2.

Please refer to the chart below for Climactic and Design Criteria.

BILL NO. **X**-2024

**CAPITALS AND BOLD INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

~~Strike through~~ indicates matter deleted from existing law.

Climatic and Geographic Design Criteria													
Ground Snow Load	Wind Design				Seismic Design Category <sup>f</sup>	Subject to Damage From			Winter Design Temp <sup>e</sup>	Ice Barrier Underlayment Required <sup>b</sup>	Flood hazards <sup>d</sup>	Air Freezing Index <sup>i</sup>	Mean Annual Temp <sup>j</sup>
	Speed <sup>a</sup> (mph)	Topographic Effects <sup>a</sup>	Special Wind Region <sup>l</sup>	Wind-borne Debris Zone <sup>m</sup>		Weathering <sup>k</sup>	Frost Line Depth <sup>b</sup> (inches)	Termite <sup>f</sup>					
25	115	138	N/A	No	A	Severe	24	Moderate/heavy	17	No	11/5/2014	<1,500	54.4

For SI: 1 pound per square foot = 0.0479 kPa, 1 mile per hour = 0.447 m/s.

- Weathering may require a higher strength concrete or grade of masonry than necessary to satisfy the structural requirements of this code. The weathering column shall be filled in with the weathering index, "negligible," "moderate" or "severe" for concrete as determined from Figure R301.2(3). The grade of masonry units shall be determined from ASTM C 34, C 55, C 62, C 73, C 90, C 129, C 145, C 216 or C 652.
- The frost line depth may require deeper footings than indicated in Figure R403.1(1). The jurisdiction shall fill in the frost line depth column with the minimum depth of footing below finish grade.
- The jurisdiction shall fill in this part of the table to indicate the need for protection depending on whether there has been a history of local subterranean termite damage.
- The jurisdiction shall fill in this part of the table with the wind speed from the basic wind speed map [Figure R301.2(4)A]. Wind exposure category shall be determined on a site-specific basis in accordance with Section R301.2.1.4.
- The outdoor design dry-bulb temperature shall be selected from the columns of 97 1/2% values for winter from Appendix D of the International Plumbing Code. Deviations from the Appendix D temperatures shall be permitted to reflect local climates or local weather experience as determined by the building official.
- The jurisdiction shall fill in this part of the table with the seismic design category determined from Section R301.2.2.1.
- The jurisdiction shall fill in this part of the table with (a) the date of the jurisdiction's entry into the National Flood Insurance Program (date of adoption of the first code or ordinance for management of flood hazard areas), (b) the date(s) of the Flood Insurance Study and (c) the panel numbers and dates of the currently effective FIRMs and FBFMs or other flood hazard map adopted by the authority having jurisdiction, as amended.
- In accordance with Sections R905.1.2, R905.4.3.1, R905.5.3.1, R905.6.3.1, R905.7.3.1 and R905.8.3.1, where there has been a history of local damage from the effects of ice damming, the jurisdiction shall fill in this part of the table with "YES." Otherwise, the jurisdiction shall fill in this part of the table with "NO."

**SECTION 2.**

**BE IT FURTHER ENACTED** by the County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland, that Chapter 192 *Housing Standards*, of the Code of Public Local Laws of Kent County, Maryland is hereby amended as follows:

**PART III, LAND USE LEGISLATION**

**Chapter 192**

**HOUSING STANDARDS**

**Part 2, Electrical Standards**

**Article III, Electricians**

§ 192-32 Board of Electrical Examiners; **REFERENCE TO CHAPTER 210.**

**THE BOARD OF ELECTRICAL EXAMINERS IS HEREBY RE-CONSTITUTED AS THE KENT COUNTY CONSTRUCTION TRADES BOARD, AS SET OUT IN CHAPTER 210 OF THE PUBLIC LOCAL LAWS OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND**

~~A. The Board of County Commissioners of Kent County shall appoint a Board, which Board shall be~~

BILL NO. **X**-2024

**CAPITALS AND BOLD INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

~~Strike through~~ indicates matter deleted from existing law.



known as the "Board of Electrical Examiners of Kent County" and which shall consist of three (3) residents of Kent County, for the purpose of examining the qualifications and capabilities of all persons who are engaged or desire to engage in the electrical business as herein defined. The Board so appointed shall consist of at least two (2) master electricians and one (1) other person. The initial appointment shall be one (1) master electrician for one (1) year, one (1) other person for two (2) years and one (1) master electrician for three (3) years. Thereafter, all appointments shall be for three year terms. If any vacancy occurs for any cause during the term of any Board member as herein provided for, the Board of County Commissioners shall fill the vacancy. The Board of County Commissioners shall have full power to remove any member of the Board of Electrical Examiners for incompetency or improper conduct. No member shall serve successive terms.

B. Each member of said Board shall receive such compensation for actual service in attending the meetings of the Board as may, from time to time, be determined by resolution of the County Commissioners.

C. Said Board shall meet at least once each month, shall hold such special meetings as the proper and efficient discharge of its business shall require and said Board shall adopt such rules and regulations for the examination of electricians as herein defined. The term "electrical business" as used herein shall be defined as and shall include any and all persons engaged in the electrical contracting of or holding themselves out to the public as engaged in the business of installing, erecting or repairing or contracting to install, erect or repair electric wires or conductors to be used for the transmission of electrical current for electric light, heat or power purposes. A license of a master electrician issued in accordance with the provisions of this Part 2 shall entitle any such person so licensed to engage in the business of and to hold himself out to the public as engaged in the business of installing, erecting or repairing and of contracting to install, erect or repair any electric wires or conductors, etc.; provided, however, that nothing herein shall apply to any firm or corporation if the person managing and in charge of the electrical work of said firm or corporation is a master electrician licensed under these provisions or if such corporation is a public utility subject to regulation by the Public Service Commission of Maryland.

§ 192-33 ~~License requirements~~ **REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

No person, firm, or corporation shall contract to perform, hold themselves out to the public to perform (except those who qualify under Section 6-504 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland) or physically perform any electrical work without first having acquired a license **REGISTRATION FOR A MASTER ELECTRICIAN FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, HOUSING, AND ZONING** as required by this Part 2, except that a homeowner may perform such work himself in his own home after having satisfactorily completed the homeowner's examination.

§ 192-34 Applications.

A. Applications may be procured in person or by mail from the office of the Kent County ~~Building Inspector~~ **DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, HOUSING, AND ZONING** during normal working hours and, upon submission, must be accompanied with a recognizable photograph of the applicant with all first-time applicants. **THE FOLLOWING:**

BILL NO. **X**-2024

**CAPITALS AND BOLD INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

~~Strike through~~ indicates matter deleted from existing law.

- 1) **PHOTOCOPY OF A CURRENT MARYLAND STATE-WIDE MASTER ELECTRICIAN'S LICENSE.**
- 2) **PHOTOCOPY OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE (OR ANOTHER FORM OF PICTURE IDENTIFICATION).**
- 3) **CURRENT FEE ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTY**
- 4) **CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE FOR \$ 1,000,000<sup>00</sup> PER INCIDENT AND \$2,000,000<sup>00</sup> GENERAL AGGREGATE, WHICH SHALL LIST THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER AS:**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND  
ATTN: ELECTRICAL OFFICE  
400 HIGH STREET  
CHESTERTOWN, MD 21620**

~~B. Application must be made for one (1) of the following license or permits:~~

~~(1) Master electrician. A person who has the experience, knowledge and skill to provide electrical services in all aspects of the electrical trade in a manner that complies with applicable plans, specifications, codes or law.~~

~~(2) Restricted residential. A person having this license may engage in the business of electrical work in single family dwellings as defined in the BOCA National Building Code, 1987 Edition, Section 308.5, Use Group R 4 only.~~

~~(3) Restricted limited. A person limited to work on equipment in one (1) of the following categories: electrically operated heating, ventilating, air conditioning, refrigeration equipment (HVACR); appliances; petroleum dispensing equipment or security systems. It does not allow the installation of feeders which serve multicircuit panel boxes.~~

~~(4) In plant permit. For in plant electrical maintenance, but a permittee may not work on new installations.~~

~~(5) Homeowner's permit. A homeowner may perform such work himself on his own single family dwelling used for his personal residence only.~~

~~§ 192-35 Qualifications~~ **RESERVED.**

~~A. Only one (1) active license will be issued for any firm or corporation.~~

~~B. Every applicant for a master's license must be at least twenty four (24) years of age and have had at least seven (7) years' [a year constitutes two thousand (2,000) hours worked] experience under a master electrician in such class or classes of electrical work as in the opinion of the Board of Electrical Examiners shall have properly trained the applicant to be licensed. Technical training in a technical school or college may constitute a percentage of the required experience.~~

~~C. Restricted residential. Each applicant for a restricted residential license shall be at least twenty one (21) years of age and have had at least four (4) years' [a year constitutes two thousand (2,000) hours worked] experience under the supervision of a master or restricted residential electrician.~~

~~D. Restricted limited. Each applicant for a restricted limited license shall be at least twenty one (21) years of age and have had at least four (4) years' [a year constitutes two thousand (2,000) hours worked]~~

BILL NO. **X**-2024

**CAPITALS AND BOLD INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

~~Strike through~~ indicates matter deleted from existing law.

~~practical experience with verification of such experience by employer.~~

~~E. In plant permit. Each application for an in-plant permit shall be made by an authorized officer of the applicant.~~

~~F. Each applicant for the homeowner's permit must satisfactorily complete the homeowner's examination.~~

§ 192-36 ~~Examinations; appeals~~ **RESERVED.**

~~A. All examinations shall be given by the Board of Electrical Examiners in the months of January, April, July and October.~~

~~B. Examinations shall test the applicant's knowledge of the current edition of the National Electrical Code (NFPA No. 70), along with practical knowledge of circuitry and equipment.~~

~~C. Applicants for examinations will be required to obtain a grade of seventy percent (70%) in order to obtain a license.~~

~~D. Any applicant aggrieved by a decision of the Board of Electrical Examiners on any question relating to the examination shall be given a hearing by a Board of Arbitration, provided that the appeal is made to the Board of Electrical Examiners within thirty (30) days after the decision. Conditions of this appeal are: any person whose application for license shall have been rejected by said Board of Electrical Examiners shall have the right to appeal to a Board of Arbitration, which shall consist of one (1) person selected by the person making the appeal, one (1) person selected by the Board of Electrical Examiners and these two (2) to select a third person, and the decision of said Board of Arbitration or a majority of them shall be final and binding upon all parties to said appeal. The members of the Board shall receive an expense allowance in the amount of twenty dollars (\$20.) for each member, which sum shall be deposited with the Board of Electrical Examiners by the person taking said appeal, and if said Board of Arbitration shall affirm the decision of the Board of Electrical Examiners, the money so deposited shall be used to pay said Board; if, however, such decision is reversed, said Board of Arbitration shall be paid out of county funds, and said deposit of sixty dollars (\$60.) shall be returned.~~

§ 192-37 Fees; insurance.

A. The ~~license~~ **REGISTRATION** fees and renewal fees for electrical ~~licenses~~ **REGISTRATIONS** shall be according to a schedule to be established from time to time by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners.

B. Before the ~~license~~ **REGISTRATION** is issued or reissued, the applicant shall furnish the ~~Board of Electrical Examiners~~ **COUNTY** with prima facie evidence of adequate business liability insurance commensurate with that which is required by the State of Maryland. All ~~classes of licenses stated in § 192-34~~ **REGISTERED MASTER ELECTRICIANS** shall be required to carry coverage equal to or exceeding the requirements by the State of Maryland for master electricians.

§ 192-38 ~~Licenses~~ **REGISTRATIONS** and renewals.

A. All ~~licenses~~ **REGISTRATIONS** when received from the ~~Board of Electrical Examiners~~ shall be displayed in a prominent place in the principal office or establishment of the ~~licensee~~ **REGISTRANT**.

B. No ~~license~~ **REGISTRATION** shall be transferable.

BILL NO. **X**-2024

**CAPITALS AND BOLD INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

~~Strike through~~ indicates matter deleted from existing law.

C. ~~licenses~~ **REGISTRATIONS** shall be issued on a biannual basis and are valid as of the first day of July of the odd year on and prior to issuance. The full fee shall be paid irrespective of the date of issuance.

D. All ~~licensees~~ **REGISTRANTS** shall **MAY** display on the vehicles used in the performance of their work the words "~~Licensed~~ **REGISTERED** Electrician - Kent County, Maryland" and the number assigned to them in letters not less than two (2) inches in height. This is to be done within ninety (90) days of issuance of the ~~license~~ **REGISTRATION**.

~~E. Licenses may be renewed without examination, provided that application for renewal along with applicable provisions of § 192-37 are submitted to the Board within ninety (90) days of the expiration date.~~

~~F. Application for renewal shall include a complete list of employees, showing date of employment and social security number.~~

~~G. The Board of Electrical Examiners shall be given written notice of all new employees within thirty (30) days of employment.~~

~~H. The failure on the part of any licensee to renew his license prior to the expiration date shall not deprive such person the right of renewal without examination for ninety (90) days after the expiration date, but the fees for renewal shall be increased by ten dollars (\$10.) for each month or fraction of a month that a renewal fee is delayed. Nothing in this statement shall infer that the validity of the license is extended through this ninety day period.~~

~~I. If a license holder does not wish to renew his license, he must submit a written notice of request to shelve the license. This must be accompanied with the fee in effect.~~

#### § 192-39 Revocation or suspension of ~~license~~ **REGISTRATION**.

The ~~Board of Electrical Examiners~~ **COUNTY** may, upon at least fifteen (15) days' notice to the ~~licensee~~ **REGISTRANT** by certified mail and after a full hearing of all parties in interest, revoke or suspend the ~~license~~ **REGISTRATION** of any found guilty of:

A. The practice of fraud or deceit in obtaining said ~~license~~ **REGISTRATION**.

B. Permitting any unlicensed person, firm or corporation to apply for inspection of or to perform electrical work under the ~~authority of a license~~ **A COUNTY-ISSUED REGISTRATION**.

C. Performing or permitting the performance of grossly defective or dangerous work.

D. Failure to file application for inspection of such work with the recognized electrical inspection authority for work performed.

E. Failure to make corrections required by a notice issued by the authorized electrical inspector within a reasonable time as ~~interpreted by the Electrical Board~~.

F. Failure to obtain certification of work performed from the authorized inspection agency.

BILL NO. **X**-2024

**CAPITALS AND BOLD INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

~~Strike through~~ indicates matter deleted from existing law.

G. Violations of any of the provisions of this Part 2 or of any regulations adopted pursuant to this Part 2.

**H. FAILURE TO MAINTAIN THE REQUIRED BUSINESS INSURANCE AS STATED ABOVE.**

**I. FAILURE TO MAINTAIN A MARYLAND STATE MASTER ELECTRICIAN'S LICENSE.**

§ 192-40 Inspections.

A. All ~~licensees~~ **REGISTRANTS** must file an application for inspection of all electrical work.

~~B. Any firm or corporation which has an in-plant (maintenance) permit for its specific building or buildings under its control and where applicable electrical work is performed shall file application for inspection with the authorized electrical inspector or inspection agency on a biannual basis.~~

~~C. A letter of certification of the annual inspection shall be presented to the Board of Electrical Examiners before the annual permit is issued. Failure to show certification thirty (30) days after the renewal date would automatically cancel the in-plant permit.~~

§ 192-41 Standards.

All electrical work performed by a licensee shall be in accordance with the then-approved current edition of the National Electrical Code (NFPA No. 70) or approved revisions thereof as may be amended by the ~~Board of Electrical Examiners~~ **STATE OF MARYLAND**.

§ 192-42 Inspection authority.

The currently recognized inspection authority shall be the Middle Department Inspection Agency or its successor, subject to the continued authority of the Board of ~~Electrical Examiners~~ **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** to change, add or delete the recognized inspection authority.

§ 192-43 Advisory representatives.

The County Commissioners shall have the authority to appoint representatives with specialized expertise to assist the ~~COUNTY Board of Electrical Examiners~~ in an advisory capacity where circumstances so warrant.

§ 192-44 Exceptions.

~~A.~~ An application for inspection is not required for the installation of an outlet under twenty (20) amperes or less than two (2) outlets with recognized inspection authority. ~~Licensees~~ **REGISTRANTS** must obtain a certificate of electrical work performed from the authorized inspection agency.

~~B. The provisions of this Part 2 do not apply to: journeymen electricians or apprentices and other persons under the direction and supervision of a licensed master electrician or (life or present) restricted residential electrician, and those performing electrical work for those companies as an integral part of the~~

BILL NO. **X**-2024

**CAPITALS AND BOLD INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

~~Strike through~~ indicates matter deleted from existing law.

~~plant or services of the company in rendering their duly authorized services to the public and those cited in Article 90(2)(b) of the current National Electrical Code.~~

§ 192-45 Cut-in certificate.

No electric light or power company shall attach its power lines or electric meters to any consumer's property within the borders of Kent County unless the work has been installed by an electrician licensed **BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND AND REGISTERED IN KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND** under this Part 2 ~~or the homeowner himself [as defined in § 192-34B(5)]~~ and until a temporary or permanent meter cut-in certificate has been issued by the inspector or an appropriate fifteen-day card issued in accordance with the guidelines of the local utilities.

§ 192-46 Violations and penalties.

A. Any person, firm or corporation who or which shall install, alter or replace any water supply, wiring, appliances or devices for electric light, heat, protective signaling or power without having a valid **AND CURRENT** license **ISSUED BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND AND A VALID AND CURRENT REGISTRATION ISSUED BY KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND**, except under the direct supervision of a person having a ~~SUCH~~ valid license **AND REGISTRATION**, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be liable for a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.) ~~or to imprisonment of not more than ninety (90) days, or both, in the discretion of the court, and any such conviction shall ipso facto revoke and annul any REGISTRATION that may have been issued to such person. Each day's violation shall constitute a separate offense.~~

B. The County Commissioners of Kent County may enjoin such person, firm or corporation from engaging in electrical work in violation of this Part 2 by action for injunction or other equitable relief in a court of competent jurisdiction or may recover the monetary penalty by civil action in such court.

### SECTION 3.

**BE IT FURTHER ENACTED** by the County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland, that Chapter 210 (Reserved) is hereby replaced in its entirety.

#### Chapter 210

#### CONSTRUCTION TRADES BOARD

§ 210-1. Establishment; membership; terms.

A. Board established.

A board to be styled and known as the "Construction Trades Board" is hereby established. The Board shall have the duty and power to administer the powers and duties of:

BILL NO. **X**-2024

**CAPITALS AND BOLD INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

~~Strike through~~ indicates matter deleted from existing law.

- (1) The Board of Appeals provided for in the international Building Code, the International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings, and the International Energy Conservation Code; and
- (2) Replaces the board referred to in Chapter 192 of the County Code, known as the "Board of Electrical Examiners."

B. Number of members designated; qualifications.

The Board shall consist of seven members, who shall be appointed by the County Commissioners, as follows:

- (1) Two Maryland licensed master electricians;
- (2) Two Maryland licensed master plumbers;
- (3) One Maryland licensed master heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration contractor;
- (4) One Maryland licensed home improvement contractor or general contractor; and,
- (5) One Maryland licensed design professional (architect, landscape architect, engineer, land surveyor, etc.).

C. Terms.

Members are appointed to staggered terms with the longest term being three years. Members may be reappointed. Members eligible to serve under different categories (e.g., an electrician who is also a plumber) may serve under a different category as membership changes occur.

D. Vacancies.

The County Commissioners shall appoint a replacement member to fill any vacancy on the Board. The vacant position should be filled with an individual qualified for the same member status as the individual previously holding the position. However, at any time, after a diligent search, if no individual qualified for a particular category is found to serve, then the County Commissioners may fill such a vacancy with an at-large appointee.

§ 210-2. Officers; meetings; quorum.

- A. Officers. The Board, at its first meeting in each calendar year, shall elect from its body a member to serve as a Chair and a member to serve as a Vice Chair.
- B. Meetings. The Board may meet as needed and at other times as the Board shall from time to time determine, at a time and place to be determined by the Board. In addition, the Board shall meet as required herein to determine any building permit appeal brought to the Board. Meetings of the Board are subject to Maryland law, including the Open Meetings Act, Title 10, Subtitle 5, of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, as from time to time amended. The Board may avail itself of all provisions thereof, including the right to conduct closed sessions, but only when the County Attorney is present at the closed session.

BILL NO. **X**-2024

**CAPITALS AND BOLD INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

~~Strike through~~ indicates matter deleted from existing law.

C. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of five members of the Board.

§ 210-3. Removal.

The County Commissioners may remove any member of the Board from office for misconduct, neglect of duty, excessive absenteeism, or any other cause deemed sufficient by the County Commissioners. The member shall be informed of the reason for the removal and be given an opportunity to be heard.

§ 210-4. Compensation.

Each member of said Board shall receive such compensation for actual service in attending the meetings of the Board as may, from time to time, be determined by the County Commissioners.

§ 210-5. Staffing; counsel; records; minutes.

- A. Staffing, including a clerk for the Board, shall be provided through the Department of Planning, Housing, and Zoning.
- B. Legal counsel, as from time to time requested or needed, shall be provided by the County Attorney.
- C. Records shall be maintained by the Department of Planning, Housing, and Zoning. Documents and records of the Board are subject to Maryland Law, including the Public Information Act, Title 10, Subtitle 6, of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, as from time to time amended.
- D. Minutes. Meetings of the Board shall comply with Maryland Law, including the Open Meetings Act, Title 10, Subtitle 5, of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, as from time to time amended.

§ 210-6. Appeals.

Any person who feels aggrieved by any action of the Board may appeal within 30 days of notice of such action to the Circuit Court for Kent County, in accordance with the Maryland Rules of Procedure.

§ 210-7. Reserved.



**SECTION 4.**

**BE IT FURTHER ENACTED** by the County Commissioners of Kent County that this Act shall be adopted on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

Read Third Time \_\_\_\_\_

PASSED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

Failed of Passage \_\_\_\_\_

By order of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sondra M. Blackiston, Clerk

**THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND**

(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald H. Fithian, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Albert H. Nickerson, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
John F. Price, Member

ORDERED a fair summary thereof or the entire bill shall be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the County, not less than three times at weekly intervals within a four-week period.

BILL NO. **X**-2024

**CAPITALS AND BOLD INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

~~Strike through~~ indicates matter deleted from existing law.

ARTICLE III  
**Construction Trades Board**  
**[Added 9-11-2012 by Bill No. 2012-6]**

**§ 88-20. Establishment; membership; qualifications; terms.**

- A. Board established. A board to be styled and known as the "Construction Trades Board" is hereby established. The Board shall have the duty and power to administer the powers and duties of:
- (1) The Board of Appeals provided for in the International Building Code, the International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings, and the International Energy Conservation Code;
  - (2) The board referred to in Chapter 98 of the County Code, known as the "Caroline County Board of Electrical Examiners"; provided, however, that in matters of granting licenses and providing examinations, the Electrical Committee of the Construction Trades Board shall have sole authority; and
  - (3) The Board referred to in Chapter 147 of the County Code as the "Caroline County Plumbing Board."
- B. Number of members designated; qualifications. The Board shall consist of nine members, all of whom shall be residents of Caroline County and who shall be appointed by the County Commissioners, as follows:
- (1) Two licensed master electricians.
  - (2) A licensed master plumber.
  - (3) An HVAC journeyman as provided for in COMAR 09.15.02.09.
  - (4) A licensed home improvement contractor as defined in COMAR 09.08.01.01 or a recognized general contractor.
  - (5) Four members at-large appointed by the County Commissioners in consideration of their background, education, experience, intelligence, and willingness to serve, provided that no at-large member shall be actively involved in the trade or profession of electrician, plumber, HVAC work, or residential or building contracting while serving as a member of the Board.
- C. Term. Each member shall serve for a term of three years; provided, however, that three of the initial members shall serve a term of one year, three of the initial members shall serve a term of two years, and three of the initial members shall serve for a term of three years, as designated by the County Commissioners. All terms of initial members shall be deemed to have started from the effective date of the legislation creating the Board, regardless of the date of initial appointment.
- D. Vacancies. The County Commissioners shall appoint a replacement member to fill any vacancy on the Board. The vacant position shall be filed with an individual

qualified for the same member status as the individual previously holding the position. At any time, after a diligent search, should no individual qualified for any particular Board member status be willing to serve and be acceptable to the County Commissioners, the County Commissioners may fill that vacancy with an at-large appointee.

- E. No current employees of the County shall serve on the Board.
- F. A permanent committee of three members drawn from the membership of the Construction Trades Board, to be known as the Electrical Committee," consisting of the two members who are master electricians and one at-large member, is hereby established, and said Committee shall determine all issues of electrical licensing and examination in accordance with Chapter 98.

**§ 88-21. Chair and Vice Chair; meetings; quorum; voting.**

- A. Officers. The Board, at its first meeting in each calendar year, shall elect from its body a member to serve as a Chair and a member to serve as a Vice Chair.
- B. Meetings. The Board shall meet at least semiannually, in the months of March and September, and may meet at other times as the Board shall from time to time determine, at a time and place to be determined by the Board. In addition, the Board shall meet as required herein to determine any complaint or question brought to the Board under Chapters 88, 98, and 147 of the Code. Meetings of the Board are subject to Maryland law, including the Open Meetings Act, Title 10, Subtitle 5, of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, as from time to time amended. The Board may avail itself of all provisions thereof, including the right to conduct closed sessions in accordance therewith.
- C. Quorum.
  - (1) A quorum shall consist of five members of the Board (whether or not all nine positions on the Board are filled); provided, however, that at least three of the five at-large members must be in attendance to constitute a valid quorum.
  - (2) At any meeting at which a proper quorum is in attendance, a vote of the majority of the members attending shall be sufficient to determine an action or render a decision.

**§ 88-22. Removal.**

The County Commissioners may remove any member of the Board from office for misconduct, neglect of duty, excessive absenteeism, or any other cause deemed sufficient by the County Commissioners. The member shall be informed of the reason for the removal and be given an opportunity to be heard.

**§ 88-23. Compensation; expenses; process.**

Members of the Board shall receive compensation and such reimbursement for expenses as the County Commissioners may determine from time to time. The Board's budget

shall be included within the budget for the Department of Planning and Codes. No expenditures shall be reimbursed or made unless funds have been appropriated and provided that requests and approvals have been made through processes from time to time established by the office of Finance.

**§ 88-24. Staffing; minutes; records.**

- A. Staffing, including a secretary for the Board, shall be provided through the Department of Planning and Codes.
- B. Legal counsel, as from time to time requested or needed, shall be provided by the County Attorney.
- C. Records. Minutes, examination records, records of claims, interpretations, and decisions of the Board shall be maintained by the Department of Planning and Codes. Documents and records of the Board are subject to Maryland Law, including the Public Information Act, Title 10, Subtitle 6, of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, as from time to time amended.
- D. Minutes. Meetings of the Board need not be recorded, but in all cases Board minutes shall comply with Maryland Law, including the Open Meetings Act, Title 10, Subtitle 5, of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, as from time to time amended.
- E. The Electrical Committee shall be subject to and be staffed in accordance with this § 88-24.

**§ 88-25. Fees; collection, disposition, and disbursement.**

The Board shall have to right and power to collect all fees properly assessed by the Board in accordance with the County Code and as approved by the County Commissioners by resolution. All fees assessed pursuant to Chapters 98 and 147 of the County Code shall be paid to the Board. All moneys collected by the Board shall be paid to the Comptroller and credited to the General Fund of the County.

**§ 88-26. Code references.**

All references in state law and the County Code to the Electrical Board, Plumbing Board, Caroline County Board of Electrical Examiners, or the Caroline County Plumbing Board shall be deemed to refer to the Construction Trades Board.

**§ 88-27. Appeals.**

Any person who feels aggrieved by any action of the Board in denying, suspending, revoking, or failing to reinstate a license may appeal therefrom within 30 days of notice of such action to the Circuit Court for Caroline County, in accordance with the Maryland Rules of Procedure.