

ACT 215

H.B. NO. 1712

A Bill for an Act Relating to Electricians.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. In light of the increased complexity created by technological advances in the electrical trade and corresponding updates to the National Electrical Code, the legislature finds that there is a need to require electricians licensed by the State to demonstrate continued competency in their profession as a condition for subsequent relicensing. For experienced electricians, successful completion of appropriate coursework related to current updates of the National Electrical Code would satisfy the continued competence requirement. The legislature finds that this method is the most effective means of ensuring continued competence for experienced electricians. Alternatively, for newly licensed electricians, the legislature finds that successful completion of a test is more appropriate and consistent with current training and educational practices in this field and the anticipated increases in the volume and complexity of future updates to the National Electrical Code requirements.

The purpose of this Act is to implement continued competency requirements for the relicensing of electricians to ensure the public's health and safety.

SECTION 2. Chapter 448E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§448E- Continued competency; license renewals. Effective July 1, 1996, all journeyworker electricians, journeyworker industrial electricians, journeyworker specialty electricians, supervising electricians, supervising industrial electricians, and supervising specialty electricians licensed by the board prior to June 30, 1996, shall furnish the board with proof of attendance at an educational course related to current updates of the National Electrical Code conducted by the community colleges, prior to each license renewal, and all such electricians licensed by the board after June 30, 1996, shall successfully complete an examination prescribed by the board on current updates to the National Electrical Code prior to each license renewal. The board shall contract with a professional testing agency to prepare, administer, and grade the examination. Fees related to the examination shall be paid by the licensee directly to the profession testing agency."

SECTION 3. Section 448E-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§448E-4 Powers and duties of board. In addition to any other powers and duties authorized by law, the board shall have all the powers and duties necessary or convenient to [carry out and] effectuate [the purposes and provisions of] this chapter, including[, without limitation,] but not limited to the following powers and duties:

- (1) To grant licenses which shall be renewable [on a biennial basis to:] for:
 - (A) Journeyworker electricians;
 - (B) Journeyworker specialty electricians;
 - (C) Supervising electricians;
 - (D) Supervising specialty electricians;
 - (E) Master plumbers;
 - (F) Journeyworker plumbers;
 - (G) Maintenance electricians;
 - (H) Journeyworker industrial electricians; and
 - (I) Supervising industrial electricians;
- (2) To adopt, amend, or repeal [such] rules in accordance with chapter 91 as it may deem proper to effectuate this chapter and to insure the safety and welfare of the general public[. All rules shall be adopted pursuant to chapter 91. The]; provided that the rules may forbid acts or practices deemed by the board to be detrimental to the accomplishment of the purpose of this chapter;
- (3) To enforce this chapter and rules adopted pursuant [thereto] to this chapter and chapter 91, including the denial, suspension, or revocation of any license; and
- (4) To examine all applicants and licensees to determine their qualifications prior to the issuance or renewal of licenses."

SECTION 4. Section 448E-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§448E-8 Fees; [biennial] renewals. [The biennial renewal fee] Renewal fees shall be paid to the board before July 1 [of each even-numbered year].

Plumbers shall renew the license each even-numbered year. Electricians shall renew the license every three years effective with the July 1, 1996, renewal; provided that the applicant shall pay all required fees prior to the renewal of the license; and provided further that the applicant shall meet the requirements prescribed in section 448E-_____. Failure, neglect, or refusal of any licensee to either pay the [biennial] renewal fee, or in the case of an electrician to meet the requirements of section 448E-_____, before [such] the renewal date shall constitute a forfeiture of the license. Any license so forfeited may be restored upon written application [therefor] within one year from [that] the date [and the] of forfeiture, upon payment of the required renewal fee plus [an amount equal to ten per cent thereof.] penalty fees, and for electricians, meeting the requirements in section 448E-_____.

SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.¹

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1995.

(Approved June 22, 1994.)

Note

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.