

Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1157

Introduced by

Representative B. Koppelman

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to amend and reenact section 43-09-09 of the North Dakota Century Code,~~
 2 ~~relating to regulation of electrical systems.~~for an Act to amend and reenact sections 43-09-01,
 3 43-09-05, 43-09-09, 43-09-09.2, 43-09-10, 43-09-11, 43-09-12, 43-09-13.2, 43-09-15,
 4 43-09-15.1, 43-09-16, 43-09-18, 43-09-20, 43-09-21, 43-09-22, and 43-09-23 of the North
 5 Dakota Century Code, relating to regulation by the state electrical board; and to provide a
 6 penalty.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

8 ~~SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.~~ Section 43-09-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
 9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 ~~43-09-09. License required - Examination - Board to issue license - Reporting.~~

11 ~~Every person, partnership, company, corporation, limited liability company, or association~~
 12 ~~that undertakes or offers~~

13 ~~1. A person that does not have a valid license issued by the board may not undertake or~~
 14 ~~offer to undertake with another person to plan, lay out, supervise, install, make~~
 15 ~~additions, make alterations, or make repairs, in the installation of wiring, apparatus, or~~
 16 ~~equipment for electric light, heat, or power, shall apply to the board for a license. This~~
 17 ~~licensure requirement does not include the planning, laying out, supervising, installing,~~
 18 ~~making of additions to, making of alternations to, or making of repairs to a system,~~
 19 ~~such as an audio system, video system, computer network system, home automation~~
 20 ~~system, or security system, if the system is not for electric light, heat, or power.~~

21 ~~2. The board shall examine thean applicant for licensure and, if, upon a technical and~~
 22 ~~practical examination, the board determines the applicant is found to~~
 23 ~~possesspossesses the required knowledge and skill and to beis versed in the laws of~~
 24 ~~electricity, the applicantboard shall be issuedissue the applicant a license in the class~~

1 ~~for which the applicant was examined. The board president shall sign the license shall~~
2 ~~be signed by the president and the secretary of the board and attested shall attest the~~
3 ~~license by the seal of the board.~~

4 ~~3. Each licensee or permitholder shall report that person's licensing or renewals to the~~
5 ~~electrical inspector, if there is one, in the municipality in which that person operates.~~

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-09-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **43-09-01. Definitions.**

9 In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

- 10 1. "Apprentice electrician" means ~~a person~~ an individual who is learning the trade under
11 the personal supervision of a state-licensed electrician.
- 12 2. "Board" means the state electrical board.
- 13 3. "Class B electrician" means ~~a person having~~ an individual who has the necessary
14 qualifications, training, and technical knowledge to wire, install, and repair electrical
15 apparatus and equipment in accordance with the standard rules and regulations
16 governing such work, ~~and shall have~~ who has eighteen months' experience in
17 farmstead or residential wiring, and ~~shall have~~ passed an examination before the state
18 electrical board based upon the national electrical code as it applies to farmstead or
19 residential wiring.
- 20 4. "Journeyman electrician" means ~~a person having~~ an individual who has the necessary
21 qualifications, training, and technical knowledge to wire, install, and repair electrical
22 apparatus and equipment and power limited systems in accordance with the standard
23 rules and regulations governing such work.
- 24 5. "Licensee" means an individual who holds a valid license issued by the board.
- 25 ~~6.~~ "Master electrician" means ~~a person having~~ an individual who has the necessary
26 qualifications, training, experience, and technical knowledge to plan, lay out, and
27 supervise the installation and repair of electrical wiring apparatus, and equipment for
28 electric light, heat, ~~and power~~ and power limited systems, in accordance with the
29 standard rules and regulations governing such work.
- 30 7. "Nonelectrical system" means a system as defined by the articles contained in
31 chapter 8 and other articles which contains class II or class III circuits and systems as

1 defined by the national electrical code, as adopted by the board. Although the board
2 may expand this definition, the board may not narrow this definition. The term does not
3 include a circuit or system that is installed:

4 a. Within an area of special occupancies, as defined under articles 500 through 517
5 of the national electrical code.

6 b. For heat, light, or power.

7 c. For the control of heat, light, or power, unless the circuit or system employs
8 digital communication.

9 8. "Power limited electrician" means an individual who has the necessary qualifications,
10 training, experience, and technical knowledge to plan, layout, and supervise the
11 installation and repair of a power limited system.

12 9. "Power limited system" means a system as defined by the articles contained in
13 chapter 8 and other articles which contains class II or class III circuits and systems as
14 defined by the national electrical code, as adopted by the board. Although the board
15 may expand this definition, the term does not include a nonelectrical system.

16 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-09-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **43-09-05. Powers and duties of state electrical board - Biennial report.**

19 The board shall adopt a seal and may adopt reasonable rules to carry out this chapter. The
20 board may submit a biennial report to the governor and the secretary of state in accordance
21 with section 54-06-04. The board shall appoint qualified inspectors. Upon receipt of notice of
22 completion of any electrical wiring or power limited system installation involving a value of five
23 hundred dollars or more, the inspectors shall inspect the electrical or power limited system
24 installation and approve or condemn that installation. The inspector shall make a report of the
25 inspection on forms prescribed by the board.

26 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-09-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28 **43-09-09. License required - Examination - Board to issue license.**

29 ~~Every~~

30 1. A person, ~~partnership, company, corporation, limited liability company, or association~~
31 that ~~undertakes or offers~~ may not undertake or plan to undertake with another person

1 to plan, lay out, supervise, install, make additions, make alterations, or make repairs,
2 in the installation of wiring, apparatus, or equipment for electric light, heat, or power or
3 for a power limited system, ~~shall apply to unless licensed by~~ the board ~~for a license~~.

4 2. The board shall examine ~~the~~an applicant for licensure and if, upon a technical and
5 practical examination, the applicant is found to possess the required knowledge and
6 skill and to be versed in the laws of electricity, the applicant shall be issued a license in
7 the class for which the applicant was examined. The license ~~shall~~must be signed by
8 the president and the secretary of the board and attested by the seal of the board.

9 3. Each licensee or permitholder shall report that ~~person's~~individual's licensing or
10 renewals to the electrical inspector, if there is one, in the ~~municipality~~city in which that
11 ~~person~~individual operates.

12 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-09-09.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **43-09-09.2. Advertising prohibited - Exceptions - Liability - Penalty.**

- 15 1. Except as provided in this section, if ~~an electrical~~a license is required under section
16 43-09-09 ~~or by local ordinance~~, a person may not advertise to contract for electrical
17 services without being licensed as or being associated with a class B ~~or~~electrician,
18 master electrician, or power limited electrician, unless that person intends to contract
19 the electrical services with a licensed electrical contractor.
- 20 2. If a person associates with ~~a class B or master~~an electrician under subsection 1 and
21 that association ends, that person is jointly and severally liable for any ~~electrical-~~
22 ~~services~~ contracts entered under that association.
- 23 3. a. A person violating this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor for a first
24 conviction, but no fine in excess of one hundred dollars and no term of
25 imprisonment may be imposed.
- 26 b. A person violating this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor for a second or
27 subsequent conviction, but the penalties are as follows:
- 28 (1) For a second conviction, no fine in excess of one thousand dollars and no
29 term of imprisonment may be imposed.
- 30 (2) For a third or subsequent conviction, a fine not to exceed one thousand
31 dollars, or imprisonment not to exceed thirty days, or both, may be imposed.

1 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-09-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **43-09-10. Types of licenses.**

4 The classes of electricians who may be licensed under section 43-09-09 are:

- 5 1. Master electrician.
- 6 2. Journeyman electrician.
- 7 3. Class B electrician.
- 8 4. Power limited electrician.

9 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-09-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **43-09-11. Qualifications.**

12 An applicant for an electrician's license must have the following experience and training:

- 13 1. For licensure as a master electrician, an applicant must have completed one year's
14 experience as a licensed journeyman electrician.
- 15 2. For licensure as a journeyman electrician, an applicant must have:
 - 16 a. Completed eight thousand hours' experience in installing and repairing electrical
17 wiring, apparatus, and equipment, which experience may not be obtained in less
18 than three years.
 - 19 b. Effective for an applicant who registered with the board as an apprentice after
20 January 31, 2008, completed at least one of the following:
 - 21 (1) Successfully completed apprenticeship training approved by the federal
22 bureau of apprenticeship and training and completed eight thousand hours'
23 experience in installing and repairing electrical wiring, apparatus, and
24 equipment.
 - 25 (2) Successfully completed an appropriate course of study, which may not be
26 less than two years or the equivalent of two years, at a board-approved
27 institution of higher education and completed eight thousand hours'
28 experience in installing and repairing electrical wiring, apparatus, and
29 equipment. The board may determine equivalent hours of education that
30 may be applied as a credit against the eight thousand hours' experience
31 requirement under this paragraph.

3. For licensure as a class B electrician, eighteen months' experience in farmstead or residential wiring.

4. For licensure as a power limited electrician:

a. Hold a valid board-recognized tradesman certification; or

b. Possess the necessary work experience and training, as approved by the board.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENT. Section 43-09-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

43-09-12. Examination - Requirements.

Each applicant for an electrician's license shall pay the examination fee and shall take an oath and submit written evidence that the applicant has had the required experience. ~~If a partnership, corporation, or limited liability company applies for a license, an officer or manager thereof shall make the application and take the oath and submit evidence as to experience.~~

SECTION 8. AMENDMENT. Section 43-09-13.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

43-09-13.2. ~~Electrical inspectors~~ Inspectors - License required - Exception.

~~A person~~An individual employed by the state electrical board or a political subdivision to inspect electrical or power limited system installations must be licensed as a journeyman electrician or master electrician. ~~This section does not apply to an inspector employed by the electrical board or a political subdivision as of July 2, 1989.~~

SECTION 9. AMENDMENT. Section 43-09-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

43-09-15. Renewal of license - Denial, suspension, or revocation of licenses.

1. An electrician's license may be issued for a term of only one year, but may be renewed without examination upon the payment of the proper fee. If the licensee fails to renew the license for a period of three consecutive years or more, the licensee is required to appear for re-examination. The state electrical board may deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew any license issued or applied for under the provisions of this chapter for any of the following reasons:

1.a. Failure or refusal to maintain or adhere to the minimum standards set forth in the electrical code referred to in section 43-09-21.

1 2.b. Any cause for which the issuance of the license could have been refused had
2 ~~it~~that information then existed and been known to the board.

3 3.c. Commitment of any act of gross negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in the
4 practice of ~~a master or journeyman electrician or the business of an electrical~~
5 ~~contractor~~the profession regulated under this chapter.

6 4.d. Material misstatement, misrepresentation, or fraud in obtaining the license.

7 5.e. After due notice, failed or refused to correct, within the specified time, any
8 ~~electrical~~ installation not in compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

9 6.f. Failure or refusal to make a deposit or acquire public liability insurance as
10 required by ~~sections 43-09-14 and~~section 43-09-20.

11 7.g. Failure to ~~repay~~pay or enter ~~into~~ a written contract for repayment, under a
12 payment schedule acceptable to the board, ~~of money disbursed from the fund as~~
13 ~~provided under section 43-09-14, or failure to make timely payments under a~~
14 ~~payment contract entered into under the board's policy for administering the~~
15 ~~undertaking fund~~any financial obligation to the board.

16 8.h. Failure to furnish certification of completion of continuing education as required
17 under section 43-09-15.1.

18 ~~Any person whose~~

19 2. ~~If an individual's~~ license is denied ~~or whose license is~~, suspended, or revoked by the
20 board, or ~~who~~that individual is refused a license by the board, that individual may
21 appeal to the appropriate court.

22 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-09-15.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24 **43-09-15.1. Continuing education.**

25 ~~After March 31, 1990, each~~An applicant for renewal of an electrician's license pursuant to
26 section 43-09-15 must have successfully completed ~~prior thereto~~ at least ~~four hours, and~~
27 ~~thereafter~~ eight hours each biennium, of continuing education relating to the standards set forth
28 in section 43-09-21 or as otherwise prescribed by the board. The board may not require more
29 than sixteen hours of continuing education in each biennium. The board shall conduct education
30 sessions ~~for licensees~~ each year at not ~~less~~fewer than six locations throughout the state.

31 Attendance at such sessions, or attendance at other education sessions certified by the board

1 as approved, fulfills the educational requirements of this section. The board may charge a fee ~~to~~
2 ~~licensees~~ for attendance at the education sessions at an amount to be determined by the board,
3 but not to exceed ten dollars per ~~person~~attendee for each session.

4 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-09-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **43-09-16. When license not required.**

7 The following persons ~~may not be~~are not required to ~~hold an electrician's license~~be licensed
8 by and are not subject to regulation by the board under this chapter:

- 9 1. Employees of public utilities engaged in the manufacture and distribution of electrical
10 energy ~~when~~while engaged in work directly pertaining to the manufacture and
11 distribution of electrical energy. This exemption terminates at the first point of service
12 attachment, except for the installing or testing of electric meters and measuring
13 devices and the maintenance of ~~their service~~electric meters and measuring devices.
- 14 2. Employees, independent contractors, or subcontractors of a company that ~~operates or~~
15 ~~installs telephone and radio communication systems when engaged in work pertaining~~
16 ~~directly to the installation of telephone and radio communication conductors on~~
17 ~~premises where the installations are made for use exclusively for the transmission of~~
18 ~~telephone and radio signals~~is a telecommunication carrier as defined under section
19 57-34-01 or that is a satellite or cable systems provider, while acting in the scope of
20 employment or the terms of the contract.
- 21 3. Employees, independent contractors, or subcontractors of dealers in household
22 appliances, such as room air-conditioners, clothes dryers, dishwashers, freezers,
23 garbage disposals, refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, water heaters, and similar
24 appliances ~~when such employees are~~while installing and connecting such appliances
25 to an existing electrical receptacle.
- 26 4. A representative of a manufacturing firm that is installing or modifying controls of
27 wiring solely on industrial machinery that is for use by the firm itself, and performed by
28 or under the direction of a registered professional engineer who issues a
29 state-accepted evaluation, which is to be maintained with the equipment.
- 30 5. An individual who is installing a nonelectrical system.

1 6. An individual who is installing a power limited system that is installed within a
2 residential dwelling or is installed with a factory connector or cord powered by an
3 existing electrical receptacle.

4 **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-09-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **43-09-18. Apprentice ~~to master electrician.~~**

7 ~~Any person~~An individual may serve as an apprentice under a licensed master electrician or
8 power limited electrician, but a master electrician or power limited electrician may not allow an
9 apprentice to work on any installation without personal supervision of a licensed electrician.

10 **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-09-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **43-09-20. ~~Contract for installation of electrical wiring and installation of electrical~~**
13 **~~equipment~~Installations made with master electrician, class B electrician, or power limited**
14 **electrician - Requirement for liability insurance.**

15 ~~No~~

16 1. A contract, agreement, or undertaking with another person for the installation of
17 electrical wiring or power limited wiring or the installation of electrical or power limited
18 system parts of other apparatus may not be entered ~~into~~ by anyone ~~not other than~~ a
19 master electrician or power limited electrician. A class B electrician, ~~as herein defined,~~
20 ~~is authorized to~~ may not enter ~~into~~ a contract, undertaking, or agreement for the
21 installation of ~~farmstead~~electrical wiring, except for:

22 a. Farmstead electrical wiring; ~~or residential~~

23 b. Residential electrical wiring in one or two family dwellings located in
24 ~~municipalities~~a city with a population of two thousand five hundred or ~~less~~
25 ~~population, and the electrician's authority under the contract, undertaking, or~~
26 ~~agreement is limited to the actual installation by that electrician of farmstead~~
27 ~~electrical wiring or residential electrical wiring in one or two family dwellings~~
28 ~~located in municipalities of two thousand five hundred or less population, and the~~
29 ~~installation of electrical equipment, appliances, and apparatus used on~~
30 ~~farmsteads and such residences. Before an electrician referred to in this section~~

~~enters into a contract for installation of electrical wiring, the electrician shall deposit with the board fewer.~~

2. If a licensee is acting as a contractor, that licensee shall submit to the board evidence of the existence of public liability insurance with a licensed insurance carrier, with policy limits of at least five hundred thousand dollars ~~for a master electrician, and two hundred fifty thousand dollars for a class B electrician.~~

SECTION 14. AMENDMENT. Section 43-09-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

43-09-21. Standards for ~~electrical wiring, apparatus, and equipment.~~

All electrical and power limited wiring, apparatus, or equipment must comply with the rules of the board made under authority of the laws of this state and in conformity with the approved methods of construction for safety to life and property. The regulations in the national electrical code and the national electrical safety code as approved by the American national standards institute are prima facie evidence of these approved methods. ~~Any municipality~~ Although a city may make more stringent requirements by ordinance, application of the ordinance must be limited to individuals licensed by the board under this chapter. An electrical or power limited system installation may not be connected for use until proof has been furnished to the person, ~~firm, corporation, or limited liability company~~ supplying electrical energy that there is compliance with the applicable regulations. The manufacturer of a new manufactured building or modular unit shall make any changes required for the proof within fourteen days from the notice that the building or unit does not comply with the applicable regulations. This section does not apply to the movement of a new manufactured building or modular unit into or within this state before the process of being connected for use.

SECTION 15. AMENDMENT. Section 43-09-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

43-09-22. Inspection of installation - Condemnation.

1. The board has jurisdiction over and shall provide inspection for all electrical installations. ~~Inspectors~~ The board has jurisdiction over and shall provide inspection for all power limited system installations. If there is a disagreement between an electrician and an inspector over interpretation or over a correction for violation issued by any

1 inspector, the executive director of the board shall review the identified disagreement
2 and render a final decision, which either party may appeal to the board.

3 2. The executive director of the board, as authorized by the board, may condemn
4 installations hazardous to life and property or may order specific corrections to be
5 made. ~~Inspectors~~The executive director may order disconnection of service ~~thereto-~~
6 ~~discontinued~~ after notice to the owner of the property. The order is subject to the
7 owner's right of appeal to the board. ~~No~~A condemned installation may not be
8 reconnected for service until proof has been furnished that the installation has been
9 brought up to the required standards.

10 3. The board may charge the a master electrician, class B electrician, or power limited
11 electrician responsible for the installation a fee ~~to cover the cost of inspection for~~
12 inspections. Cities

13 4. A city may make provisions for inspection of all electrical ~~work done~~and power limited
14 systems installed within ~~their~~the corporate limits of the city. ~~City inspectors~~A city shall
15 register ~~their names~~the name of the inspector with the board within ten days ~~after-~~
16 ~~their~~of appointment. A city may not require inspection of an installation that is outside
17 the jurisdiction of the board.

18 **SECTION 16. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-09-23 of the North Dakota Century Code is
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **43-09-23. Criminal penalty - Civil proceedings.**

21 ~~Any person who~~A person that violates any of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a
22 class B misdemeanor. In addition to criminal proceedings, the board may commence
23 administrative or civil court proceedings as follows:

24 1. The board may issue a cease and desist order against a person allegedly making or
25 offering to make ~~electrical~~ installations in violation of section 43-09-09 or 43-09-09.2
26 based upon information provided to the board by its ~~electrical~~ inspectors or other
27 persons, by investigation reports, affidavits, complaints of witnesses, or oral testimony
28 given to the board at a regular or special board meeting. Violation of the cease and
29 desist order may be considered by the court in issuing a temporary or permanent
30 restraining order and in ordering the payment of costs and attorney's fees in
31 proceedings authorized under this section.

- 1 2. The board may apply to the district court in the county in which the violations have
2 occurred for a temporary or permanent injunction under chapter 32-06, enjoining
3 persons from performing, advertising, or contracting for making ~~electrical~~ installations
4 without a valid license issued by the board in violation of section 43-09-09 or
5 43-09-09.2. The court may not require a written undertaking, security, or bond as a
6 basis for issuing any temporary or permanent restraining order under this section
7 unless the court specifically orders and states the basis for requiring the security.
8 Upon a determination that a violation of section 43-09-09 or 43-09-09.2 has occurred,
9 the court may assess against the defendants the actual costs incurred and reasonable
10 attorney's fees necessary for the investigation and court proceedings against the
11 unlicensed person.
- 12 3. After an administrative hearing has been conducted by the board under chapter 28-32,
13 an appeal from an order of the board or from the assessment of costs and attorney's
14 fees may be taken to the district court under chapter 28-32.