



Department Source: Community Development - BSD

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: July 18, 2016

Re: Amending the requirements for reciprocity of electrical licenses.

## Executive Summary

During the June 16, 2016 meeting the Board of Electrical Examiners voted unanimously to revise the requirements for the reciprocity of licenses from other jurisdictional areas. This change is being sought to clarify the experience requirements of the ordinance and to expedite the licensing of qualified applicants.

## Discussion

The Board of Electrical Examiners has at times denied reciprocity of a Master Electrician license based upon the inability of an applicant, who has a master license from another jurisdiction, to verify hours worked as a journeyman electrician or because they have not taken a recognized examination. It is the Board's belief that sometimes this denial is not the intent of the ordinance.

The applicable portions of the existing ordinance read as follows:

*304.6 Reciprocity:* The board of electrical examiners will honor licenses issued from other Jurisdictional areas provided the applicant meets the minimum experience requirements of the City of Columbia, Missouri, and provides certification of having satisfactorily completed the Thomson Prometric or ICC examination applicable for the type of license requested.

And at this time the minimum experience requirements for a Master License are;

*304.3.1 Requirements:* Prove 4,000 hours active employment as journeyman electrician C-8, 6,000 hours as journeyman electrician C-6 or be registered with the State of Missouri as a professional engineer or architect and be actively engaged in the business of electrical contracting."

From time to time an applicant with a Master License from another jurisdiction may be able to demonstrate an overwhelming number of hours worked as an electrician but has never sought a journeyman license. These applicants cannot therefore technically fulfil the requirements as set forth in 304.3.1 but are clearly qualified. This occurs because other jurisdictions sometimes do not require an individual to hold a journeyman license before testing for a master license and are only concerned with years of experience.



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Another issue has arisen with the proliferation of state licensing in other parts of the country. At this time the Board cannot honor licenses or examinations issued by other states. The board believes other state licenses and /or examinations should be recognized along with Thompson Prometric and ICC.

The Board of Electrical Examiners proposes to amend (remove strike out portions and add language underlined) the provision for reciprocity to expedite the licensing of qualified applicants as follows:

304.6 *Reciprocity*: The board of electrical examiners will honor licenses issued from other jurisdictional areas provided the applicant meets the ~~minimum experience requirements of the City of Columbia, Missouri,~~ following experience requirements: journeyman will be 6,000 hours of electrical experience; master will be 12,000 hours of electrical experience, and provides certification of having satisfactorily completed the Thomson Prometric or ICC examination, or possesses any state issued license in the United states of America applicable for the type of license requested. If applicant has passed a recognizable state test and has 12,000 hours of experience, the board shall approve applicant for reciprocity.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: NA  
Long-Term Impact: NA

## Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

### Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

## Legislative History

Date	Action
06/16/2016	The Board of Electrical Examiners voted unanimously (3-0) to amend the requirements to reciprocate electrical licenses.



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## Suggested Council Action

Adopt the amendment as written to be in full force and effect immediately.