

HOUSE No. 396

By Mr. Coakley of Chicopee, petition of Elliot H. Goodwin and others for an amendment of the law relative to the supervision of electricians. Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-One.

An act relative to the Supervision of Electricians.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter one hundred and forty-one
2 of the General Laws, as amended by chapter two
3 hundred and twenty-one of the acts of nineteen hun-
4 dred and twenty-one, is hereby further amended by
5 striking out sections one to five, inclusive, and insert-
6 ing in place thereof the following new sections: —

7 *Section 1.* No person, firm or corporation shall
8 install wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures or other
9 appliances for carrying or using electricity for light,
10 heat or power purposes, either as a master electrician
11 or as a journeyman electrician, unless such person,
12 firm or corporation shall have received a license and a
13 certificate therefor, issued by the state examiners of
14 electricians and in accordance with the provisions
15 hereinafter set forth.

16 The words "master electrician" as used in this
17 chapter shall mean a corporation, firm or person,
18 except a journeyman electrician as hereinafter de-
19 fined, who engages in the business of installing wires,
20 conduits, apparatus, fixtures or other appliances for
21 carrying or using electricity for light, heat or power
22 purposes.

23 The words "journeyman electrician" as used in this
24 chapter shall mean a person who performs the actual
25 work of installing wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures
26 or other appliances for carrying or using electricity
27 for light, heat or power purposes.

28 Nothing in this chapter shall be so construed as to
29 forbid the insertion in electrical circuits, by un-
30 licensed persons, of devices or appliances which are
31 properly designed for such insertion and for which
32 proper wires and insertion devices are provided.

33 *Section 2.* The state examiners of electricians, in
34 this chapter called the examiners, shall make and
35 enforce necessary rules, requirements and regulations
36 for the proper performance of their duties and for the
37 proper carrying out and enforcement of this chapter.

38 They shall hold frequent examinations in Boston,
39 and, twice in each year, shall hold examinations in at
40 least four other convenient places within the common-
41 wealth, and they may hold annual or occasional
42 examinations in other places. Public notice shall be
43 given of all examinations.

44 They shall make an annual report of their doings.

45 In the conduct of the examinations they shall
46 make uniform requirements for all towns, which may
47 be revised from time to time, as circumstances re-
48 quire. Said examinations shall be sufficiently fre-
49 quent to give ample opportunity for all applicants to

50 be thoroughly and carefully examined, may be
51 written or in practical work, or both, and may be
52 supervised by one or more of the examiners, but no
53 license shall be granted without the sanction of the
54 examiners.

55 *Section 3.* Two forms of licenses shall be issued.
56 The first, hereinafter referred to as "Certificate A",
57 shall be known as "master electrician's license", and
58 the second, hereinafter referred to as "Certificate
59 B", shall be known as "journeyman electrician's
60 license".

61 (1) "Certificate A" shall be issued to any person,
62 firm or corporation engaged in or about to engage in
63 the business of installing electrical wires, conduits,
64 apparatus, fixtures or other appliances for carrying
65 or using electricity for light, heat or power purposes,
66 and who, after examination, shall be found qualified
67 by the examiners. The certificate shall specify the
68 name of the person, firm or corporation so applying,
69 and also, in case of a firm or corporation, shall specify
70 the name of the person, who in the case of a firm
71 shall be one of its members, and in the case of a
72 corporation shall be one of its officers, passing said
73 examination in its behalf. The holding of a "Certifi-
74 cate A" shall entitle such person, firm or corporation
75 to engage in business as set forth therein, but shall
76 not entitle the holder individually to engage in or
77 perform the actual work of installing electric wires,
78 conduits or appliances as previously described in this
79 chapter, but shall entitle him to conduct business as
80 a master electrician subject to the rules, requirements
81 and regulations of the examiners. Nothing in this
82 chapter shall be so construed to prohibit the actual
83 work of installing electric wires, conduits, apparatus,

84 fixtures or other appliances by an individual holder
85 of a "Certificate A" who also holds a "Certificate
86 B". The person, member of a firm or officer of a
87 corporation as a result of whose examination a "Cer-
88 tificate A" is granted to such person, firm or corpora-
89 tion shall direct or supervise the electrical work done
90 by employees of such person, firm or corporation.

91 (2) "Certificate B" shall be granted to any person
92 who, after examination before the examiners, is found
93 qualified by them. It shall specify the name of such
94 person, who shall thereby be authorized to work as a
95 journeyman electrician, subject to this chapter and
96 to the rules, requirements and regulations of the
97 examiners.

98 Except as otherwise provided in section eight, a
99 holder of a "Certificate B" shall not be entitled to
100 engage in the business of installing wires, conduits,
101 apparatus, fixtures or other appliances for carrying or
102 using electricity for light, heat or power purposes
103 except as an employee of a holder of a "Certificate
104 A", or unless said holder of a "Certificate B" is also
105 registered as a master electrician and holds a "Certifi-
106 cate A".

107 (3) Persons desiring an examination shall make
108 written application therefor, accompanied by the
109 proper fee, which shall be twenty-five dollars for
110 "Certificate A" and five dollars for "Certificate B".
111 An applicant failing in his examination shall not have
112 his fee returned to him, but shall be entitled to one
113 free re-examination. For each subsequent re-exami-
114 nation for "Certificate A" he shall pay fifteen dollars
115 and for "Certificate B" one dollar.

116 (4) Each "Certificate A" shall expire on July
117 thirty-first in each year, but may, at the discretion

118 of the examiners, be renewed by the same person, or
119 the same firm or corporation, acting by one or more
120 of its members or officers, without further examina-
121 tion, upon payment of a fee of fifteen dollars, appli-
122 cation therefor being made during the preceding
123 month.

124 (5) Each "Certificate B" shall expire on July
125 thirty-first in each year, but may, at the discretion
126 of the examiners, be renewed upon payment of a fee
127 of one dollar, and upon the same conditions set forth
128 in the preceding paragraph.

129 (6) Every holder of a "Certificate A" shall keep
130 his or its certificate of registration displayed in a
131 conspicuous place in his or its principal office or place
132 of business. Every holder of a "Certificate B" shall
133 be furnished by the examiners with evidence of hav-
134 ing been so licensed, in card form or otherwise, which
135 shall be carried on the person of the licensee and
136 exhibited on request.

137 (7) Any certificate expiring while the holder thereof
138 is in the military or naval service of the United States
139 shall be renewed without further examination, upon
140 payment of the prescribed fee, at any time within
141 four months after such person's discharge from the
142 service.

143 (8) Examination papers and applications for "Cer-
144 tificate A" and "Certificate B" shall be preserved for
145 at least three years, after which time they may, at
146 the discretion of the examiners, be destroyed.

147 (9) Records of the meetings of the examiners shall
148 be open for inspection at all times, and they shall
149 have printed annually a manual of their rules, regu-
150 lations and requirements, including the names of all
151 licensees.

152 (10) Applications for examination shall be made
153 under oath or verified by a written declaration that
154 they are made under the penalties of perjury.

155 *Section 4.* No certificates issued under this chap-
156 ter shall be assignable or transferable. Any such
157 certificate may, after hearing, be suspended or re-
158 voked by the examiners upon failure or refusal of the
159 licensee to comply with the rules, regulations and
160 requirements of the examiners, or for other sufficient
161 cause. For the purpose of carrying out this section,
162 the examiners, any member thereof or any employee
163 so authorized by them, may compel the attendance
164 of the licensee against whom action is taken under
165 this section; may also by subpoena duces tecum
166 compel the attendance of witnesses with such papers,
167 memoranda, books and records as may relate to the
168 charges against such licensee, and for the purpose of
169 carrying out this section may administer oaths. The
170 examiners may also cause depositions to be taken.
171 The fee for attending as a witness at any such hearing
172 before the examiners shall be two dollars a day and
173 five cents a mile for travel to and from the point
174 designated by the examiners for the hearing. Any
175 justice of the supreme judicial or the superior court
176 may, on petition of the examiners, enforce by proper
177 proceedings the provisions of this section relating to
178 the attendance of licensees and witnesses and to the
179 examination of papers, memoranda, books and
180 records.

181 *Section 5.* Any person, firm or corporation, or
182 employee thereof, and any representative, member
183 or officer of such firm or corporation individually,
184 entering upon or engaging in the business and work
185 hereinbefore defined, without having complied with
186 this chapter and with the rules, requirements and

187 regulations of the examiners, or falsely representing
188 himself or his firm or corporation as a master or em-
189 ploying electrician by the use of the words "master
190 electrician" or "electrical contractor" or words of
191 similar import or meaning on signs, cards, stationery,
192 or in any other manner whatsoever, shall for the first
193 offence be punished by a fine of not less than ten nor
194 more than one hundred dollars and, for a subsequent
195 offence by a fine of not less than fifty nor more than
196 five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the house
197 of correction for six months, or both.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter one hundred and forty-one
2 of the General Laws is further amended by striking
3 out sections eight and nine and inserting in place
4 thereof the following new section: —

5 *Section 8.* This chapter shall not forbid the em-
6 ployment of one learner or one apprentice working
7 with and under the direct personal supervision of a
8 licensed journeyman electrician.

9 Electricians may be regularly employed by per-
10 sons, firms or corporations other than holders of
11 "Certificate A" for the purpose of making such alter-
12 ations, additions or repairs to existing electrical
13 installations as may be required only on the premises
14 and property of such persons, firms or corporations;
15 provided, that such electricians hold journeymen's
16 licenses, that such alterations, additions or repairs
17 do not materially change the character and load
18 of the existing installation, unless the person, firm
19 or corporation on the premises or property of which
20 they are made, employs a holder of "Certificate
21 A", and that such electricians have complied with
22 this chapter and with the rules, requirements and
23 regulations of the examiners.

The first part of the report is devoted to a general survey of the state of the country, and to a description of the principal features of the landscape. The second part is devoted to a description of the principal cities and towns, and to a description of the principal industries and occupations. The third part is devoted to a description of the principal educational institutions, and to a description of the principal public buildings. The fourth part is devoted to a description of the principal public works, and to a description of the principal public services. The fifth part is devoted to a description of the principal public institutions, and to a description of the principal public offices. The sixth part is devoted to a description of the principal public works, and to a description of the principal public services. The seventh part is devoted to a description of the principal public institutions, and to a description of the principal public offices. The eighth part is devoted to a description of the principal public works, and to a description of the principal public services. The ninth part is devoted to a description of the principal public institutions, and to a description of the principal public offices. The tenth part is devoted to a description of the principal public works, and to a description of the principal public services.