

HOUSE No. 1434

By Mr. Campbell of Cambridge, petition of John J. Campbell and another relative to the supervision of outside electrical workers, linemen, cable splicers, operators and station electricians. Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE SUPERVISION OF OUTSIDE ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LINEMEN, CABLE SPLICERS, OPERATORS AND STATION 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 The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after
2 chapter 142 the following new chapter:—

3 CHAPTER 142A.

4 SUPERVISION OF OUTSIDE ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LINEMEN,
5 CABLE SPLICERS, OPERATORS, AND STATION ELECTRICIANS.

6 *Section 1.* In this chapter the following words shall have the
7 following meanings:—

8 “Examiners”, state examiners of electricians, existing under
9 authority of section thirty-two of chapter thirteen.

10 “Lineman”, a person who installs, repairs and maintains
11 electrical conductors, together with their supporting structures
12 and appurtenances, which are located outside of buildings.

13 “Hot stick lineman”, a person especially qualified to work
14 on live conductors over twenty-three hundred volts to ground.

15 “Cable splicer”, a person who joins a stranded electrical con-
16 ductor (single conductor cable) or a combination of conductors
17 insulated from one another and having a common covering

18 (multiconductor cable) as applied to the cable splicer in outside
19 electrical work.

20 "Operator", in a power or substation, a person who directs
21 by means of switches the voltage carried by lines to and from
22 said station, and reads and checks meters in said stations to
23 determine voltage of said lines, by distributing companies.

24 "Station electrician", a person who maintains, inspects and
25 repairs equipment in power generating and substations.

26 "Power station", a plant engaged in generating, manufacture
27 and distribution of electrical power.

28 "Sub-station", one of the two types: (1) one which receives
29 and reduces alternating current voltage from the generating
30 station and distributes it; or (2) one which receives and con-
31 verts alternating current to direct current and distributes it for
32 public sale.

33 "Manual station", a substation whose controls and switches
34 are manually operated for distributing companies.

35 "Automatic station", a substation whose controls and
36 switches are automatically operated.

37 *Section 2.* No person, firm or corporation engaged in the
38 sale of power shall employ, nor shall any person engage in the
39 work, as a lineman, cable splicer, operator or station electrician,
40 unless he has been licensed by the examiners as provided in this
41 chapter. The license granted by the examiners shall be ex-
42 hibited upon request.

43 *Section 3.* The examiners shall enforce such rules as are es-
44 tablished from time to time for the proper protection of the
45 public, and as they deem necessary for the proper performance
46 of duties by those engaged in work enumerated in section one.
47 They shall examine each applicant desiring to engage in work
48 as a lineman, cable splicer, operator and station electrician as
49 to his practical knowledge, and subject him to a practical test
50 satisfactory to the examiners, who if satisfied of his competence
51 shall issue a license; provided, that any person who has had
52 at least four years' experience as a lineman, cable splicer,
53 operator or station electrician prior to the effective date of this
54 chapter shall not be required to take an examination to secure
55 a license, but shall be granted a license by examiners upon filing
56 of proper proof of experience with examiners, and payment of

57 license fee within ninety days of effective date of this chapter.
58 Any person who is qualified to perform the work of more than
59 one of the above trades or calling shall, if desired, be given a
60 combination of licenses without additional cost, such com-
61 bination license to specify the trades or callings the person is
62 qualified to perform.

63 Frequent examinations shall be held in Boston, and once in
64 each year shall be held at three other convenient places within
65 the commonwealth. Public notice shall be given all examina-
66 tions held within the commonwealth. Each applicant shall
67 make application in his own handwriting. Notification of the
68 time and place of the examinations shall be given by the ex-
69 aminers.

70 *Section 4.* The fee for the first license as a lineman, cable
71 splicer, operator or station electrician shall be five dollars, and
72 for renewal thereof three dollars, per year.

73 *Section 5.* Licenses issued by the examiners shall be valid
74 throughout the commonwealth, but shall not be loaned, as-
75 signed or transferred. Licenses shall be issued for one year,
76 and may be renewed annually on or before January first upon
77 payment of the required fee. Any such license, after violation
78 of the holder thereof of any regulation or requirement estab-
79 lished by the examiners, or for other sufficient cause, may be
80 suspended or revoked by the examiners.

81 In case of failure to renew a license on or before January
82 first in any year, the person named therein, upon payment of
83 said renewal fee, and a deferred renewal fee of ten dollars,
84 increased by such additional fees as would have been payable
85 had such license been continuously renewed, may receive a
86 deferred renewal thereof, which shall expire on the following
87 first day of January; provided, that if the holder of a license
88 shall fail for three consecutive years to renew, as hereinbefore
89 provided, no license shall be issued to such person until he has
90 submitted to such re-examination as may be required by the
91 examiners.

92 *Section 6.* No live conductor, cable, wire, instruments or
93 appliance, carrying one hundred and fifty volts, or more, to
94 ground, shall be installed or repaired by less than two such
95 licenses under this chapter; no overhead live conductor or wire

96 carrying twenty-three hundred volts or over to ground shall be
97 installed or repaired, except by especially qualified hot stick
98 crews properly licensed and equipped for such work.

99 *Section 7.* Any person, firm or corporation engaged in public
100 sale of power employing any other person to engage, or any
101 person engaging, in the work hereinbefore defined, without
102 having complied with this chapter, shall be punished by a fine
103 of not less than fifty nor more than two hundred dollars or by
104 imprisonment for six months, or both.

105 *Section 8.* This chapter shall not apply to telephone or
106 telegraph companies nor to persons employed by them to per-
107 form the work of said companies; nor to wire and cable manu-
108 facturers nor to persons employed by them in the manufacturing
109 of their products; nor to electrical appliance manufacturers
110 nor to persons employed by them in the manufacturing of their
111 products.

112 *Section 9.* This chapter shall not forbid the employment of
113 learners or apprentices; provided, that such learner or ap-
114 prentice shall be registered with the examiners, and shall work
115 only as assistant to, and under the direct personal supervision
116 of, a license hereunder.

117 *Section 10.* This chapter shall not forbid the employment of
118 qualified personnel who reside beyond the limits of the common-
119 wealth during an emergency, who would otherwise be subject
120 to this act.

121 *Section 11.* Any person applying for a license and making
122 any misstatement as to his experience or other qualifications,
123 or any person, firm or corporation subscribing to or vouching
124 for any misstatement, shall be subject to the penalties set forth
125 in section seven.

126 *Section 12.* Fees and fines collected under this chapter shall
127 be paid to the commonwealth.