

By Mr. Ambler of Weymouth, petition of Robert B. Ambler relative to the licensing of electrical contractors. Government Regulations.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS.

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 141 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out section 1 and inserting in place there-
3 of the following section: —

4 *Section 1.* No person, firm or corporation shall enter into,
5 engage in, or work at the business of installing wires, conduits,
6 apparatus, devices, fixtures or other appliances for carrying
7 or using electricity for light, heat or current consuming pur-
8 poses, unless such person, firm or corporation shall have re-
9 ceived a license and a certificate therefor, issued by the state
10 examiners of electricians and in accordance with the provi-
11 sions hereinafter set forth.

12 The words "person, firm or corporation" as used in this
13 chapter, shall mean any person, firm or corporation actually
14 entering into, engaging in or working at the business described
15 in the preceding paragraph irrespective of the person, agency
16 or entity which contracts with, or employs such person, firm
17 or corporation.

18 The words "master electrician" as used in this chapter shall
19 mean a person, firm, or corporation having a regular place of
20 business who, by the employment of journeymen, learners or
21 apprentices, performs the work of installing wires, conduits,
22 fixtures and other appliances used for light, heat, power, or
23 any other current-consuming purposes: provided, that no
24 journeyman electrician in his employ shall have more than one
25 learner or apprentice under his supervision; and provided,
26 further, that not more than one such learner or apprentice be

27 employed for each journeyman electrician.

28 The words "journeyman electrician" as used in this chapter
29 shall mean a person qualified to do any work of installing, re-
30 pairing and maintaining wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures
31 and other appliances used for heat, light, power, or any other
32 current-consuming purposes.

33 The word "systems," as used in this chapter shall refer to
34 security systems activated electronically or electrically, com-
35 munity antenna television systems and any conduit or device
36 which conducts or consumes electricity under ninety volts at
37 twenty volt-amperes of total connected load.

38 The words "systems contractor" as used in this chapter shall
39 mean a person, firm or corporation having a regular place of
40 business, who, by the employment of systems technicians,
41 learners or apprentices, performs the work of installing sys-
42 tems, provided that no systems technician in his employ shall
43 have more than one such learner or apprentice under his super-
44 vision; and provided, further, that not more than one such
45 learner or apprentice be employed for each such systems tech-
46 nician.

47 The words "systems technician" as used in this chapter shall
48 mean a person qualified to do the work of installing, repairing
49 or maintaining systems.

1 SECTION 2. Said Chapter 141 is hereby further amended by
2 striking out section 3 and inserting in place thereof the follow-
3 ing new section:

4 *Section 3.* Four forms of licenses shall be issued. The first,
5 hereinafter referred to as "Certificate A," shall be known as
6 "master electrician's license," the second, hereinafter referred
7 to as "Certificate B," shall be known as "journeyman electri-
8 cian's license," the third, hereinafter referred to as "Certificate
9 C," shall be known as "systems contractor's license," and the
10 fourth, hereinafter referred to as "Certificate D," shall be
11 known as "systems technician's license."

12 (1) "Certificate A" shall be issued to any person, firm or
13 corporation engaged in or about to engage in the business of
14 installing electrical wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures, other
15 electrical appliances and systems qualified under this chapter.

16 "Certificate C" shall be issued to any person, firm or cor-

17 poration engaged in or about to engage in the business of in-
18 stalling systems qualified under this chapter.

19 Both certificate A and C shall specify the name of the per-
20 son, firm or corporation so applying, and the name of the per-
21 son, who in case of a firm shall be one of its members, and in
22 the case of a corporation, one of its officers passing said ex-
23 amination, by which he or it shall be authorized to enter upon
24 or engage in business as set forth therein. The holding of "Cer-
25 tificate A" shall not entitle the holder individually to engage
26 in or perform the actual work of installing electric wires, con-
27 duits, systems and appliances as previously described in this
28 chapter, but shall entitle him to conduct business as a master
29 electrician. The holding of "Certificate C" shall not entitle
30 the holder individually to engage in or perform the work of
31 installing systems, but shall entitle him to conduct business as
32 a systems contractor.

33 (2) "Certificate B" shall be granted to any person who has
34 passed an examination before the state examiners of elec-
35 tricians. It shall specify the name of such person who shall
36 thereby be authorized to engage in the occupation of journey-
37 man electrician and system technician. "Certificate D" shall
38 be granted to any person who has passed an examination be-
39 fore the state examiners of electricians and it shall specify the
40 name of such person who shall thereby be authorized to en-
41 gage in the occupation of systems technician.

42 (3) Persons desiring an examination shall make written ap-
43 plication therefor, accompanied by an examination fee, to be
44 determined by the Board of State Examiners of Electricians.
45 A person passing an examination for a master electrician's li-
46 cense systems contractor's license, a journeyman electrician's
47 license or a systems technician's license shall, before being
48 issued his license, pay a fee to be determined by the Board of
49 State Examiners of Electricians.

50 (4) Each "Certificate A" or "Certificate C" shall expire on
51 July thirty-first in each odd numbered year, but may be re-
52 newed by the same person, or the same firm or corporation
53 acting by one or more of its members or officers, without fur-
54 ther examination, upon payment of a fee to be determined by
55 the Board of State Examiners of Electricians, application

56 therefor being made during said month. In case of failure to
57 renew a license as aforesaid on or before July thirty-first in
58 an odd numbered year, the person named therein may, upon
59 payment of said fee, increased by such additional fees as would
60 have been payable had such license been continuously renewed,
61 receive a deferred renewal thereof which shall expire on July
62 thirty-first in the ensuing odd numbered year; provided, that
63 such renewed license shall not constitute its holder a licensee
64 for any period preceding its issue.

65 (5) Each "Certificate B" or "Certificate D" shall expire on
66 July thirty-first in each odd numbered year, but may be re-
67 newed upon payment of a fee to be determined by the Board
68 of State Examiners of Electricians, and upon the same condi-
69 tions set forth in clause (4).

70 (6) Holders of "Certificate A" or "Certificate C" shall keep
71 their certificate of registration displayed in a conspicuous place
72 in their principal offices or places of business. Holders of "Cer-
73 tificate B" or "Certificate D" shall be furnished by the ex-
74 aminers with evidence of having been so licensed, in card form
75 or otherwise, which shall be carried on the person of the li-
76 censee and exhibited on request.

77 (7) Any certificate expiring while the holder thereof is in
78 the military or naval service of the United States shall be re-
79 newed without further examination, upon payment of the pre-
80 scribed fee, at any time within four months after such per-
81 son's discharge from the service.

82 (8) Examination papers and applications for "Certificate
83 A," "Certificate C," "Certificate B," or "Certificate D" shall
84 be preserved for at least two years, after which time they may,
85 at the discretion of the examiners, be destroyed.

86 (9) Records of the meetings of the examiners shall be open
87 for inspection at all times, and they shall have printed annual-
88 ly a manual of their regulations, including the name of all li-
89 censees.

90 (10) Any person, firm or corporation who, within one year
91 of the effective date of this Act, provides evidence satisfactory
92 to the Board of State Examiners of Electricians that he or it
93 has had five (5) years experience in the alarm industry work-
94 ing as a qualified contractor or working for a qualified system

95 contractor shall be exempt from the examination provisions
96 of the foregoing sections.

97 (11) No person shall engage in, advertise or hold himself
98 out as being engaged in, nor solicit the business of installing,
99 repairing, or offering maintenance for burglar alarm systems
100 unless licensed for such purpose in accordance with the pro-
101 visions of Section 24 of Chapter 147 of the General Laws.
102 However, license applicants under this section shall be exempt
103 from the provision of Section 24 of Chapter 147 requiring three
104 years investigative experience.

1 SECTION 3. Section 5 of said chapter 141, as appearing in the
2 Tercentenary Edition, is hereby amended by adding at the end
3 thereof the following paragraph:

4 The examiners and the inspectors of wires in each city and
5 town, as defined in section thirty-two of chapter one hundred
6 and sixty-six, shall be charged with the enforcement of this
7 chapter. They shall have all necessary powers to require com-
8 pliance therewith, including the power to institute and prose-
9 cute proceedings in the superior court, and they shall not be
10 required to pay the clerk of court any entry fee in connection
11 with the institution of any such proceeding.

1 SECTION 3A. Section 6 of said chapter one hundred and forty-
2 one of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
3 the words "Certificate A" in the first sentence thereof the fol-
4 lowing: — "or a Certificate C."

1 SECTION 4. Said chapter 141 is hereby further amended by
2 striking out section 7, as so appearing, and inserting in place
3 thereof the following section:

4 *Section 7.* This chapter shall not apply to the installation,
5 repairing and wiring of elevators or to work in connection with
6 the erection, construction, maintenance or repair of lines for
7 transmission of electricity from the source of supply to the
8 service switch on the premises where used by municipal elec-
9 tric plants, by electric companies as defined in section one of
10 chapter one hundred and sixty-four, by gas companies auth-
11 orized to make or sell electricity, by electric street railway
12 companies, by electric railroad companies or by railroad com-
13 panies; nor to the work of such plants or companies on prem-

14 ises owned or controlled by them; nor to the work of said mu-
15 nicipal electric plants or of said electric or gas companies in in-
16 stalling, maintaining and repairing, on the premises of cus-
17 tomers, service connections and meters and other apparatus
18 and appliances remaining the property of such plants or com-
19 panies after installation; nor to work in connection with the
20 lighting of public ways, alleys, private ways or private or pub-
21 lic parks, areas or squares; nor to the work of companies sub-
22 ject to regulation by the department of public utilities and in-
23 corporated for the transmission of intelligence by electricity in
24 installing, maintaining or repairing wires, apparatus, fixtures
25 or other appliances used by such companies and necessary for,
26 or incident to, their business, whether or not such wires, con-
27 ducts, apparatus, fixtures or other appliances are on its own
28 premises.

1 SECTION 5. Said chapter 141 is hereby further amended by
2 striking out section 9 and inserting in place thereof the fol-
3 lowing section:

4 *Section 9.* Any person applying for a journeyman's license
5 or a systems technician's license and making any misstatement
6 as to his experience or other qualifications, or any person, firm
7 or corporation subscribing to, or vouching for, any such mis-
8 statement shall be subject to the penalties set forth in section
9 five.

1 SECTION 5A. Section 32 of chapter 13 of the General Laws
2 as most recently amended by chapter 835 of the Acts of 1974,
3 is hereby further amended by striking out in the first sentence
4 the word "four" and inserting in place thereof the word "six;"
5 and by adding after the fourth sentence thereof the following
6 sentence:

7 One of said appointees shall be a systems contractor holding
8 a "Certificate C" license issued under chapter one hundred
9 and forty-one and a citizen of the commonwealth and shall
10 have had at least ten years' experience as an employing sys-
11 tems contractor and one shall be a systems technician holding
12 a "Certificate D" license issued under said chapter, shall be a
13 wage earner and a citizen of the commonwealth, and shall have
14 at least ten years' practical experience in the installation, re-
15 pair and maintenance of systems.

