

Introduced 3/2/15
Public Hearing 3/16/15
Council Action 4/6/15
Executive Action 4/9/15
Effective Date 6/9/15

County Council Of Howard County, Maryland

2015 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 3

Bill No. 9 -2015

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

AN ACT adopting the 2014 National Electrical Code as the Electrical Code for Howard County; regulating the design, construction, alteration, improvement or modification to electrical equipment; adopting certain local amendments to the Electrical Code; amending the qualifications for appointment to the Board of Electrical Examiners; clarifying the timing of certain license exams; clarifying the signatories on certain applications; making certain technical corrections; and generally relating to the electrical code in Howard County.

Introduced and read first time March 2, 2015. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order

Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on March 16, 2015.

By order

Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on April 6, 2015 and Passed ☒ Passed with amendments _____, Failed _____.

By order

Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Scaled with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 8th day of April, 2015 at 11:45 a.m./p.m.

By order

Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive April 9, 2015

Allan Kittleman
Allan Kittleman, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **Section 1. *Be It Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the
2 *Howard County Code is amended as follows:*

3 *By amending:*

4 1. *Title 3. Buildings.*

5 *Subtitle 2. Electrical Regulations.*

6 *Section 3.202. Board of Electrical Examiners.*

7 *Subsection (c)*

8

9 2. *Title 3. Buildings.*

10 *Subtitle 2. Electrical Regulations.*

11 *Section 3.203. License required to do electrical work.*

12 *Subsection (b)*

13

14 3. *Title 3. Buildings.*

15 *Subtitle 2. Electrical Regulations.*

16 *Section 3.208. License examinations.*

17 *Subsection (a)*

18

19 4. *Title 3. Buildings.*

20 *Subtitle 2. Electrical Regulations.*

21 *Section 3.218. Permit application.*

22 *Subtitle (a)*

23

24 *By repealing and reenacting:*

25 1. *Title 3. Buildings.*

26 *Subtitle 2. Electrical Regulations.*

27 *Section 3.214. Adoption of National Electrical Code.*

28

29 **Title 3. Buildings.**

30 **Subtitle 2. Electrical Regulations.**

31

1 **Section 3.202. Board of Electrical Examiners.**

2 (c) *Qualifications for Appointment:*

- 3 (1) All members shall be residents of Howard County.
- 4 (2) ~~[[Two]]~~FOUR members shall be licensed pursuant to this subtitle.
- 5 (3) One member shall be an electrical engineer.
- 6 (4) ~~[[Four]]~~TWO members shall be selected from the general public.

7

8 **Section 3.203. License required to do electrical work.**

9 (b) *Electrical Work Performed by a Firm or Corporation.* Except as exempted by (c) of
10 this section, a firm or corporation may not do electrical work unless its principal(s) are
11 licensed to ~~[[do so pursuant to]]~~ PERFORM ELECTRICAL WORK UNDER this subtitle or unless
12 it employs an individual licensed to ~~[[do so]]~~ PERFORM ELECTRICAL WORK UNDER THIS
13 SUBTITLE.

14

15 **Section 3.208. License examinations.**

16 (a) *When Examinations Are Given.* ~~[[Examinations shall be given twice a year, during~~
17 ~~March and September. The Board shall set the exact date(s)]]~~THE BOARD SHALL SET THE
18 DATE FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHEDULED EXAMINATIONS. ~~[[Special]]~~INDIVIDUAL examinations
19 may be given at any time by~~[[the Board in its discretion]]~~THE DIRECTOR OF THE
20 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS, LICENSES, AND PERMITS OR THE DIRECTOR'S AUTHORIZED
21 DESIGNEE.

22

23 **SECTION 3.214. ADOPTION OF NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE.**

- 24 (A) (1) THE 2014 EDITION (NFPA 70) OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE, WITH
25 AMENDMENTS AS LISTED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, IS HEREBY
26 ADOPTED AS THE ELECTRICAL CODE FOR HOWARD COUNTY, AS IF THE
27 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE WERE SET OUT IN FULL IN THIS SECTION.
- 28 (2) A PERSON PERFORMING OR CAUSING THE PERFORMANCE OF ELECTRICAL
29 WORK SHALL CONFORM TO THE HOWARD COUNTY ELECTRICAL CODE AND
30 TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE ADOPTED IN
31 TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 1 OF THIS CODE.

1 (3) IF A CONFLICT EXISTS BETWEEN THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE
2 AND THE HOWARD COUNTY ELECTRICAL CODE, THE CODE REQUIRING THE
3 HIGHER STANDARD SHALL GOVERN.

4 (B) THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS MODIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ADOPTED CODE:

5 (1) *SECTION 90.4. ENFORCEMENT.*

6 ADD A SENTENCE AT THE END OF THIS SECTION AS FOLLOWS: "IF THERE IS A
7 CONFLICT BETWEEN THIS SECTION AND ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS
8 SUBTITLE, THE REQUIREMENT OF THE OTHER PROVISION SHALL GOVERN."

9 (2) *ARTICLE 100. DEFINITIONS.*

10 DELETE THE SENTENCE FOLLOWING "AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION
11 (AHJ)." AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING, "THE AUTHORITY HAVING
12 JURISDICTION IS THE BUILDING OFFICIAL AS SET FORTH IN SECTION
13 3.101(A)(2) OF THIS CODE.

14 (3) *SECTION 210.8. GROUND-FAULT CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER PROTECTION FOR*
15 *PERSONNEL.*

16 IN SUBSECTION (A), DWELLING UNITS, ADD EXCEPTION NUMBER 1 AS
17 FOLLOWS:

18 EXCEPTION NO. 1: A SINGLE RECEPTACLE THAT SUPPLIES SUMP PUMPS,
19 CONDENSATE PUMPS, AND SEWER EJECTOR PUMPS IS NOT REQUIRED TO
20 HAVE GROUND-FAULT CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER PROTECTION.

21 (4) *SECTION 210.12. ARC-FAULT CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER PROTECTION.* IN
22 SUBSECTION (A), DWELLING UNITS, ADD EXCEPTION NUMBER 2 AS
23 FOLLOWS:

24 EXCEPTION NO. 2: THE ADDITIONAL AREAS OF COVERAGE, "KITCHENS" AND
25 "LAUNDRY AREAS", SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS
26 SUBSECTION (A) BY JANUARY 1, 2017.

27 (5) *SECTION 210.12. ARC-FAULT CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER PROTECTION.*

28 IN SUBSECTION (B), BRANCH CIRCUIT EXTENSIONS OR MODIFICATIONS —
29 DWELLING UNITS, ADD EXCEPTION NUMBER 2 AS FOLLOWS:

30 EXCEPTION NO. 2: ARC-FAULT-CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER PROTECTION IS NOT
31 REQUIRED FOR NEWLY INSTALLED 120 VOLT SMOKE DETECTORS.

1 (6) *SECTION 230.71. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DISCONNECTS.*

2 IN SUBSECTION (A), GENERAL, DELETE “FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS
3 SECTION,” THROUGH THE END OF NUMBER (4), INCLUSIVE.

4 (7) *SECTION 240.21. LOCATION IN CIRCUIT.*

5 AMEND SUBSECTION (B), FEEDER TAPS, BY ADDING A SECOND EXCEPTION
6 TO ITEM (B)(1) AND A NEW EXCEPTION TO ITEM (B)(2) AS FOLLOWS:
7 EXCEPTION: IN METER ROOMS, THE CONDUCTORS WITHIN THE AUXILIARY
8 GUTTER THAT SUPPLIES THE METER SHALL NOT COUNT AS A PART OF THE
9 TOTAL LENGTH.”

10 (8) *SECTION 250.52. GROUNDING ELECTRODES.* ADD THE FOLLOWING TO THE
11 BEGINNING OF SUBSECTION 250.52(A)(3):

12 “CONCRETE-ENCASED ELECTRODES: EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE APPROVED BY
13 THE DEPARTMENT, THE PRINCIPAL GROUNDING ELECTRODE FOR A NEW
14 STRUCTURE IS A CONCRETE ENCASED ELECTRODE INSTALLED IN
15 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION.”

16 (9) *SECTION 310.106. CONDUCTORS.*

17 ADD THE FOLLOWING AT THE END OF SUBSECTION (A), MINIMUM SIZE OF
18 CONDUCTORS:

19 “WHETHER SOLID OR STRANDED, A CONDUCTOR SHALL NOT BE SMALLER
20 THAN NUMBER 14 COPPER, NUMBER 12 COPPERCLAD ALUMINUM, OR
21 NUMBER 6 ALUMINUM OR ALUMINUM ALLOY.”

22 (10) *SECTION 334.10. USES PERMITTED.*

23 IN ITEM (3), AFTER “ASSEMBLIES.”, INSERT “CABLES INSTALLED WITHIN
24 DROP OR SUSPENDED CEILINGS WITHOUT A THERMAL BARRIER ARE
25 PERMITTED.”.

26 (11) *SECTION 334.12. USES NOT PERMITTED.*

27 IN SUBSECTION (A)(2):

28 (I) STRIKE “TWO-FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY” AND SUBSTITUTE “TWO-
29 FAMILY, MULTIFAMILY”; AND

30 (II) AFTER “DWELLINGS”, INSERT “, AND TYPE III, IV, AND V
31 STRUCTURES.”

(12) *ANNEX H. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.*

ONLY THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION 80.9 ARE ADOPTED. THE REMAINDER
OF ANNEX H IS SPECIFICALLY AND INTENTIONALLY NOT ADOPTED.

Section 3.218. Permit application.

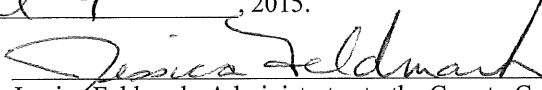
(a) An application for a permit shall:

- (1) Identify and describe the work to be covered by the permit;
- (2) Describe the property where the proposed work is to be done by legal description, street address, or other address that will identify the location of the proposed electrical work;
- (3) Indicate the use and occupancy for the location of the proposed work;
- (4) Be accompanied by construction documents that shall:
 - (i) Be drawn to scale with sufficient clarity and detail to show the nature and character of the work to be performed;
 - (ii) BE SIGNED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:
 - A. [[Bear the seal, signature, and date of the]] THE appropriate Maryland State professional engineer [[or architect]] SHALL SEAL, SIGN, AND DATE [[that shall be affixed to]] all sheets of all sets; OR
 - [[iii]] B. IF ALLOWED BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL, be signed by the licensed contractor doing the proposed work and [[shall]] include that contractor's name, license number, daytime phone number, and date of signature; and
 - [[iv]] III) Have at least one set that shall bear the original seal OR [[,]] signature [[,]] and THE date;
- (5) State the valuation of the proposed work;
- (6) Be signed by the Applicant or the Applicant's authorized agent; and
- (7) Give other information as may be required by the Building Official.

Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on April 9, 2015.



Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on _____, 2015.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on _____, 2015.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on _____, 2015.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on _____, 2015.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on _____, 2015.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council