

Date of Hearing: March 18, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

Liz Ortega, Chair

AB 1707 (Davies) – As Introduced February 4, 2026

SUBJECT: Electricians: certification application, examination, and renewal

SUMMARY:

- 1) Requires the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) to permit the application for certification and examination as an electrician to be submitted electronically, as well as permit electricians to renew their certifications electronically.
- 2) Permits an individual who fails the electrician certification examination to reregister for certification and retake the examination immediately at the next available appointment with the DLSE.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the DLSE, under the direction of the Labor Commissioner (LC), within the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), and sets forth its powers and duties regarding the enforcement of labor laws. Labor Code § 79 et seq.
- 2) Requires the DLSE to maintain minimum standards for the competency and training of electricians through a system of testing and certification. Labor Code § 108.
- 3) Requires individuals who perform work as electricians to become certified pursuant to (2) above. Labor Code § 108.2(a).
- 4) Provides that certification is required only for those persons who perform work as electricians for contractors licensed as class C-10 electrical contractors under the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) Rules and Regulations. Labor Code § 108.2(b)(1).
- 5) Requires individuals desiring to be certified to submit to the DLSE an application for certification and examination that includes an employment history report from the Social Security Administration. Labor Code § 108.2(b)(4).
- 6) Defines “electricians” as all persons who engage in the connection of electrical devices for entities classified as electrical contractors in the CSLB Rules and Regulations. Labor Code § 108(c).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: Electricians in California are licensed and certified by two main state agencies: the DLSE for individual electrician certification, and the CSLB for the C-10 Electrical Contractor license. The C-10 license is required for a business to bid on jobs totaling \$500 or more.

Individual certification through the DLSE is required for those who perform electrical work for C-10 contractors. The DLSE maintains separate certifications for general, residential,

fire/life/safety, non-residential lighting, and voice-data-video technicians. Certification requires 4,800-8,000 hours of experience depending on the type of certification, plus a passing score on the state exam.¹

To apply for the exam, individuals must mail an application and check to the DLSE, along with a Social Security Administration employment history report, and documentation of training hours. Once approved, the DLSE sends the applicant an eligibility notice and the applicant can then schedule their exam.²

The certification exam is administered by PSI Services, LLC and the computer-based tests are conducted at PSI centers across the state. The 100-question exam covers the National Electrical Code and requires a 70-percent passing score.

Applicants receive their score results immediately upon completion of the exam. According to the DIR's website, the DLSE mails a certification card to those who pass within two weeks of the exam date. If an applicant fails, they must retake the exam by completing the retest application form. There is a 60-day waiting period from the date of the failed exam.³

Individuals must renew their certification every three years by mailing an application and check to the DLSE. To have their renewal approved, electricians must complete 32 hours of approved continuing education, and provide proof of at least 2,000 hours of work experience in the industry during that three-year period.

Author's Statements:

The author argues that the mailing of applications and checks leads to significant administrative delays and "lost in the mail" scenarios. She further argues that electricians often face gaps in their ability to work while waiting for paper renewals to be processed, or waiting to retake the exam due to the mandatory waiting period.

According to the author, "As California faces an increasing demand for skilled labor to meet our ambitious infrastructure and energy goals, AB 1707 offers a common-sense solution to modernize our outdated electrician certification process. By shifting to electronic applications and allowing for immediate exam retakes, we are removing the bureaucratic red tape that currently keeps qualified workers on the sidelines for months. This bill is a vital step toward ensuring our workforce can keep pace with the state's development needs while providing aspiring tradespeople with a faster path to a stable career."

The author adds that "AB 1707 is essential to advance economic equity by removing administrative and financial barriers that disproportionately hinder low-income and underrepresented workers from entering high-paying skilled trades. By streamlining the certification process through digital access and allowing immediate exam retakes, this bill ensures that aspiring electricians can achieve professional stability and upward mobility without being delayed by outdated bureaucratic hurdles."

Arguments in Support

¹ <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/ecu/electricaltrade.html>

² <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/ecu/ElectricianApplicationInstructions.html>

³ https://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSE/ECU/ECU_TestInfo.htm

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 569 is in support and states that “the current application process is outdated and onerous, and often leads to time-sucking miscommunications and missed windows of opportunity. This bill would go a long way toward updating the system during a time when more electricians are needed to meet growing demand.”

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

Prior and Related Legislation

SB 1362 (Margett), Chapter 716, Statutes of 2008, authorized specified disciplinary action for failure to comply with existing law related to the certification of electricians.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California State Association of Electrical Workers
IBEW Local Union 569
Western Electrical Contractors Association

Opposition

None on File

Analysis Prepared by: Erin Hickey / L. & E. /