

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1707 (Davies)

As Amended August 21, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Transfers authority over the electrician certification program from the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) to the Contractors State License Board (CSLB), contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature, pursuant to certain timelines and procedures, as specified.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Transfer the electrician certification program from the jurisdiction of the DLSE and move it under the jurisdiction of the CSLB, contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature in the annual budget act, as specified.
 - a) Make the transfer of oversight of the electrician certification program become operative upon the later of July 1, 2028, or the first anniversary of the date on which the appropriation is made.
- 2) Require the CSLB to utilize the current regulations under the DLSE for administration and enforcement of the electrician certification program until such time as the CSLB adopts regulations for enforcement and regulation of the electrician certification program.
- 3) Authorize an individual who fails the electrician certification examination to reregister for certification and retake the examination no sooner than 21 days upon approval, as specified.
- 4) Delete provisions related to referrals from the DLSE to the CSLB for cases involving violations of the electrician certification program.
- 5) Require the CSLB to issue regulations that determine an adequate level of supervision of apprentices.
- 6) Delete the \$25 fee cap for initial registration for a trainee under the CSLB and remove the prohibition on the CSLB from assessing a renewal fee.
- 7) Authorize the CSLB to expend proceeds from the Electrician Certification Fund on or after July 1, 2027, as necessary to prepare for the implementation of the electrician certification program. Authorize the DLSE to continue to expend all necessary proceeds from this fund until July 1, 2029, to assist the transition of the electrician certification program from the DLSE to the CSLB.
- 8) Require the CSLB to establish initial registration and certification fees, and renewal fees necessary to implement the electrician certification program. Provide that fees collected are continuously appropriated in an amount sufficient to administer the electrician certification program, and authorize that amount to be expended by the CSLB for this purpose.
- 9) Authorize, to ensure an effective transition of the electrician certification program from the DLSE to the CSLB, any authority to administer contracts, access bank accounts, or perform

any other necessary tasks for the certification of electricians and registration of electrician trainees to be performed by either the DLSE or the CSLB until June 30, 2029.

- a) Provide that, beginning July 1, 2029, the CSLB is the successor to, and is vested with, all of the duties, powers, and responsibilities of the DLSE necessary or appropriate only for implementing and overseeing the electrician certification program.
- 10) Provide that any electrician certification or trainee registration that is valid on the operative date of the transfer of oversight of the electrician certification program shall remain valid until its expiration according to its existing terms and conditions.
- 11) Provide that the electrician certification program under the jurisdiction of the DLSE shall apply to any applications received on or before July 1, 2028, and provide that the DLSE shall have continuing authority to perform any necessary action on such applications received, including, but not limited to, approving the applications, denying the applications, and participating in any hearings regarding the denial of those applications.
- 12) Provide that the code sections related to the electrician certification program under the jurisdiction of the DLSE shall remain in effect until July 1, 2029, and as of that date are repealed, unless an appropriation by the Legislature to transfer the electrician certification program from the DLSE to the CSLB was not authorized.

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

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

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

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.

According to the Author

Note: the author's statement may not reflect the current language.

"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."

Arguments in Support

The California State Association of Electrical Workers states in support that the bill "improves the administration of California's electrician certification program by transferring oversight from the DLSE to the CSLB, placing certification for electricians under the same agency that already licenses and regulates electrical contractors. This alignment improves efficiency and coordination while maintaining the existing certification standards and qualifications that ensure electrical work is performed by trained and qualified professionals."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) This bill would result in one-time and ongoing costs, likely exceeding \$3 million annually, to CSLB to assume responsibility for the Electrician Certification Program, including staffing, examination administration, legal support, and information technology activities. Specifically, estimated costs include \$1.2 million annually for staffing, \$1.2 million annually for contracted examination and operational support, \$300,000 annually for legal services, and one-time information technology transition costs of approximately \$900,000, followed by ongoing IT support costs of approximately \$450,000 annually (Electrician Certification Fund and Contractors License Fund).
- 2) Costs to the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) would be minor and absorbable.

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

VOTES:**ASM LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT: 7-0-0**

YES: Ortega, Alanis, Chen, Elhawary, Kalra, Lee, Arambula

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0-3

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Jackson, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez

UPDATED

VERSION: August 21, 2026

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FN: 0004196