

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1707 (Davies)

As Amended August 21, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Original Committee of Reference: Labor and Employment Committee

Authorizes an individual who fails the electrician certification examination to reapply immediately and retake the examination 21 days after approval, and transfers authority over the certification of electricians from the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) to the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) beginning July 1, 2028, contingent upon appropriation.

Senate Amendments

Current Committee Recommendation: Concur

- 1) Transfer the entire electrician certification regulatory program from the DLSE to the CSLB, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, on the later of July 1, 2028, or the first anniversary of the date on which the appropriation is made.
- 2) Limit the DLSE's jurisdiction over the electrician certification program to those applications received on or before July 1, 2028, and authorizes the Labor Commissioner to perform any necessary action on applications received, as specified.
- 3) Sunset the electrician certification program under the DLSE on January 1, 2029.
- 4) State that any electrician certification or trainee registration that is valid on the operative date of the transfer of oversight of the electrician certification program remains valid until its expiration according to its existing term and conditions.
- 5) Delete the \$25 fee cap for initial registration, repeals a prohibition on assessing an annual renewal fee for registration, and requires the CSLB to establish initial registration and certification fees, and renewal fees.
- 6) Authorize the CSLB to accept another form of verifiable employment history in lieu of an employment history report from the Social Security Administration.
- 7) Require the CSLB to issue regulations that determine an adequate level of supervision of apprentices.

COMMENTS

Electrician Certification. Electricians employed by CSLB-licensed C-10 electrical contractors must be certified by the DLSE, except as follows. Certification is not required for electrical connections under 100 volt-amperes. Certification is also not required for people performing work for contractors licensed as class C-7 low voltage systems or class C-45 electric sign contractors. Uncertified individuals may not perform electrical work for which certification is required. Moreover, C-10 electrical contractors may employ only electricians certified by DLSE. Violations of this law are subject to disciplinary action by the CSLB. There are five

classifications with corresponding exams: General Electrician; Residential Electrician; Fire/Life Safety Technician; Voice, Data, Video Technician; and Non-residential Lighting Technician. As of April 12, 2023, there were more than 33,000 certified electricians.

Applicants for electrician certification must submit an application that includes Social Security earnings information and proof of having completed the experience requirements. To qualify for examination and certification, an applicant must have successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program or 4,000 to 8,000 hours of on-the-job experience. Additionally, applicants must pass an examination. The examination costs \$175 (\$100 exam fee and \$75 administration fee). After an applicant receives approval from DLSE to schedule the exam, the applicant must schedule the exam through the testing vendor, Pearson Vue. An individual who fails the exam must wait 60 days from the date of the exam before applying for retesting. This bill would allow an individual who fails the exam to reapply immediately and retake the exam 21 days after approval following receipt of the application and fee.

Certified electricians must renew their certification card every three years by applying and paying a \$100 fee. Applicants must demonstrate completion of at least 2,000 hours of work in the industry and 32 hours of continuing education from an approved education provider in the prior three years. Individuals who do not qualify for examination and certification because they lack work experience or related instruction may register as an electrician trainee. Trainees must attend a state-approved school and work under the supervision of a certified electrician. To become an electrician trainee, one must apply, pay a \$25 fee, and submit proof of enrollment in an approved school. Trainees must renew their Electrician Trainee card annually; there is no fee. The DLSE reports that applications are processed within 30 days of receipt, on average. Fees are deposited into the Electrician Certification Fund, which currently has a balance of \$20 million.

The DLSE is also responsible for establishing the minimum competency and training of electricians and must maintain an advisory committee and panels including an electrical certification curriculum committee that determines the curriculum standards for enrollees in training programs. In addition, the curriculum committee reviews education program providers to ensure they continue to meet the standards established by the curriculum committee.

Contractors State License Board. The CSLB implements and enforces the License Law, which governs the licensure, practice, and discipline of contractors in California. A license is required for construction projects valued at \$1,000 or more, including labor and materials. The CSLB issues licenses to business entities and sole proprietors. Each license requires a qualifying individual (a "qualifier") who satisfies the experience and examination requirements for licensure and directly supervises and controls construction work performed under the license. The CSLB issues four types of licenses: "A" General Engineering Contractor; "B" General Building Contractor; "B-2" Residential Remodeling Contractor; and "C" Specialty Contractor. The "C" category includes more than 40 specialty classifications, including the C-10 electrical contractor. The CSLB oversees approximately 245,000 actively licensed contractors. The CSLB also registers home improvement salespersons. The CSLB's licensing requirements do not include a mandatory education component, so there is no school approval process, and CSLB does not have a continuing education or continuing competency requirement. As a self-funded program, the CSLB relies solely on licensing, renewal, enforcement, and other administrative fees and does not receive general fund support. Licensing fees are specified in statute and updated as needed to ensure the CSLB can perform its regulatory functions.

As of August 1, 2026, there are approximately 29,000 active C-10 electrical contractors. The CSLB is charged with ensuring that electricians employed by C-10 electrical contractors are certified. C-10 licensees pay a supplemental \$20 fee when they renew their license to support CSLB's enforcement of electrician certification requirements. This bill would transfer administration of the entire electrician certification program to CSLB, beginning July 1, 2028, or on the anniversary of an appropriation by the Legislature, whichever is later. Any electrician certification or trainee registration valid on the operative date of the transfer would remain valid until its expiration under its existing terms and conditions. The DLSE would continue to have authority over applications received on or before July 1, 2028. The CSLB would have the authority to expend proceeds from the Electrician Certification Fund beginning July 1, 2027, as necessary to prepare for the transfer.

This bill would require the CSLB to establish initial registration and certification fees, and renewal fees, as necessary to implement the electrician certification program. Additionally, this bill would allow the CSLB to accept another form of verifiable employment history in lieu of an employment history report from the Social Security Administration and require the CSLB to issue regulations determining an adequate level of supervision for apprentices.

According to the Author

"Assembly Bill 1707 is urgently needed because the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement faces severe administrative backlogs, leaving qualified electricians waiting weeks or months to process both applications and license renewals. Transferring oversight to the Contractors State License Board aligns individual trade credentials with the agency that already regulates electrical contractors and enforces jobsite compliance."

Arguments in Support

As the sponsor of this bill, the *California State Association of Electrical Workers* writes:

AB 1707 improves the administration of California's electrician certification program by transferring oversight from the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) to the Contractors State License Board (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

There is no opposition 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.

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

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0-1

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNeerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Valladares

ASM BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS: 18-0-1

YES: Berman, Johnson, Addis, Ahrens, Alanis, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Caloza, Chen, Hadwick, Haney, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Lowenthal, Macedo, Nguyen, Pellerin

ABS, ABST OR NV: Elhawary

UPDATED

VERSION: August 21, 2026

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FN: 0004515