

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

ENGROSSED

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 2008

BY DELEGATES FOSTER, HORST, HAMRICK, HOWELL,
ESPINOSA, STEELE, HOLSTEIN, CLARK, KEATON, AND
BURKHAMMER

[Originating in the Committee on Government
Organization, February 16, 2021]

1 A BILL to repeal §21-3D-4, §21-3D-5, §21-3D-6, §21-3D-7, and §21-3D-9 of the Code of West
2 Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section,
3 designated §21-3C-14; to amend and reenact §21-3D-1, §21-3D-2, §21-3D-3, and §21-
4 3D-8 of said code; to amend and reenact §21-14-2 and §21-14-7 of said code; to amend
5 and reenact §21-16-2, §21-16-3, §21-16-5, and §21-16-8 of said code; to amend said
6 code by adding thereto a new section, designated §21-16-11; to amend and reenact §29-
7 3B-2, §29-3B-3, §29-3B-4, §29-3B-6, and §29-3B-8 of said code; and to amend and
8 reenact §29-3D-2, §29-3D-3, §29-3D-4, §29-3D-6, and §29-3D-7 of said code, all relating
9 to licensure in this state; providing for state code precedence over local ordinances;
10 providing for a national standard and national certification for crane operators; providing
11 for legislative appropriation of the Crane Operators Certification Fund on a certain date;
12 providing for altered definitions of a Journeyman and Master plumber; providing for
13 monetary penalties for improperly performing plumbing work under certain conditions;
14 providing for altered definitions of HVAC Technician; providing that an applicant for a
15 HVAC technician license must only provide documentation of up to 2,000 hours work,
16 training, and experience; providing for monetary penalties for improperly performing HVAC
17 work under certain conditions; providing for veterans who meet certain conditions be
18 eligible for HVAC technician licensure; providing for altered definitions of Journeyman and
19 Master electricians; providing for exemptions for licensure under certain conditions;
20 providing for extended time frames for electricians to renew a license without retesting;
21 providing for monetary penalties for improperly performing electrical work under certain
22 conditions; providing for definitions of fire protection workers; providing for an altered
23 definition of Journeyman sprinkler fitter; providing for an exemption from licensure when
24 meeting certain conditions; providing for monetary penalties for improperly performing fire
25 protection work; and providing for other minor technical changes.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 21. LABOR.

ARTICLE 3C. ELEVATOR SAFETY.

§21-3C-14. Inapplicability of local ordinances.

1 On January 1, 2022, and thereafter, a political subdivision of this state may not require,
2 as a condition precedent to the performance of erecting, constructing, installing, altering,
3 servicing, repairing, or maintaining elevators or related conveyances covered by this article in the
4 political subdivision, a person who holds a valid license to perform such work issued under the
5 provisions of this article, to have any other license or other evidence of competence to engage in
6 the business of erecting, constructing, installing, altering, servicing, repairing, or maintaining
7 elevators or related conveyance covered by this article.

ARTICLE 14. SUPERVISION OF PLUMBING WORK.

§21-14-2. Definitions.

1 As used in this article:

2 (a) "License" means a valid and current license issued by the Commissioner of Labor in
3 accordance with the provisions of this article.

4 (b) "Journeyman plumber" means a person qualified by passage of a Journeyman plumber
5 written examination with a score of at least 70 percent ~~at least eight thousand hours of plumbing~~
6 ~~or related experience~~ and who is competent to instruct and supervise the work of a plumber in
7 training.

8 (c) "Master plumber" means a person who has passed a Master plumber written
9 examination with a score of at least 70 percent ~~with at least twelve thousand hours of plumbing~~
10 ~~work experience~~ and who is competent to design plumbing systems, and to instruct and supervise
11 the plumbing work of Journeyman plumbers, and plumbers in training: Provided, That the Master
12 plumber written examination may not be taken until one year after passage of the Journeyman
13 plumber examination.

14 (d) "Plumber in training" means a person who has not passed the Journeyman plumber
15 examination: *Provided*, That the fee for plumbers in training may not be higher than \$25.00. ~~with~~
16 ~~interest in and an aptitude for performing plumbing work but who alone is not capable of~~
17 ~~performing plumbing work, and who has fewer than eight thousand hours of plumbing experience~~

18 (e) "Plumbing" means the practice, materials and fixtures utilized within a building in the
19 installation, extension and alteration of all piping, fixtures, water treatment devices, plumbing
20 appliances and appurtenances, in connection with sanitary drainage or storm drainage facilities;
21 the plumbing venting systems; medical gas systems; fuel oil and gas piping for residential,
22 commercial and institutional facilities; backflow preventers; and public or private water supply
23 systems, as defined by the state building code.

24 (f) "Single family dwelling" means a building which is occupied as, or designed or intended
25 for occupancy as, a single residence for one or more persons.

§21-14-7. Penalties.

1 (a) On and after January 1, 2009, a person performing or offering to perform plumbing
2 work without a license issued by the Commissioner of Labor, is subject to a cease and desist
3 order.

4 (b) Any person continuing to engage in plumbing work after the issuance of a cease and
5 desist order is ~~guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof,~~ is subject to the following
6 penalties:

7 (1) For the first offense, a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$1,000;

8 (2) For the second offense, a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$2,000, ~~or~~
9 ~~confinement in jail for not more than six months, or both;~~

10 (3) For the third and subsequent offenses, a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than
11 \$5,000, ~~and confinement in jail for not less than thirty days nor more than one year.~~

12 (c) A separate offense means each day, after official notice is given, that a person
13 performs plumbing work that is unlawful or is not in compliance with the provisions of this article.

14 (d) The Commissioner of Labor may institute proceedings in the circuit court of the county
15 where the alleged violation of the provisions of this article occurred or are occurring to enjoin any
16 violation of any provision of this article. A circuit court by injunction may compel compliance with
17 the provisions of this article, with the lawful orders of the Commissioner of Labor and with any
18 final decision of the Commissioner of Labor. The Commissioner of Labor shall be represented in
19 all such proceedings by the Attorney General or his or her assistants.

20 (e) Any person adversely affected by an action of the Commissioner of Labor may appeal
21 the action pursuant to the provisions of chapter 29A of this code.

ARTICLE 16. REGULATION OF HEATING, VENTILATING AND COOLING WORK.

§21-16-2. Definitions.

1 As used in this article and the legislative rules promulgated pursuant to this article:

2 (a) "Perform work on a heating, ventilating, and cooling system" means to install, maintain,
3 alter, remodel, or repair one or more components of a heating, ventilating, and cooling system.

4 (b) "Heating, ventilating, and cooling system" means equipment to heat, cool, or ventilate
5 residential or commercial structures, comprised of one or more of the following components:

6 (1) "Heating system" means a system in which heat is transmitted by radiation, conduction,
7 or convection, or a combination of any of these methods, to the air, surrounding surfaces, or both,
8 and includes a forced air system that uses air being moved by mechanical means to transmit
9 heat, but does not include a fireplace or wood-burning stove not incorporated into or used as a
10 primary heating system;

11 (2) "Ventilating system" means the natural or mechanical process of supplying air to, or
12 removing air from, any space whether the air is conditioned or not conditioned, at a rate of airflow
13 of more than 250 cubic feet per minute; and

14 (3) "Cooling system" means a system in which heat is removed from air, surrounding
15 surfaces, or both, and includes an air-conditioning system.

16 (c) "HVAC Technician" means a person with at least 2,000 hours of HVAC-related work,
17 training, and experience and is licensed to install, test, maintain, and repair both residential and
18 nonresidential heating, ventilating and cooling systems.

19 (d) "HVAC Residential Technician" means a person licensed to install, test, maintain, and
20 repair residential heating, ventilating, and cooling systems: *Provided*, That such persons may
21 perform work on nonresidential heating, ventilating, and cooling systems subject to rules
22 promulgated by the commissioner pursuant to §21-16-3 of this code.

23 (e) "Residential heating, ventilating, and cooling system" means a system of no more than
24 four separate heating, ventilating, and cooling units each with a combined capacity of five tons –
25 130,000 BTUs for: (1) A single or dual family structure; or (2) a commercial location of no more
26 than 5,000 square feet in size where no fire damper is required. Such term shall not apply to
27 heating, ventilating, and cooling systems that include any packaged rooftop units.

28 (f) "HVAC technician in training" means a person with less than 2,000 hours of HVAC-
29 related work, training, and experience ~~interest in and an aptitude for performing installation,~~
30 ~~maintenance, and repair work to a heating, ventilating, and cooling system as defined in this~~
31 ~~article, but who alone is not capable or authorized to perform heating, ventilating, and cooling~~
32 ~~system work unless directly supervised by a HVAC technician or an HVAC residential technician:~~
33 *Provided*, That the fee for HVAC technician in training license may not be higher than \$25.00.

34 (g) "HVAC residential technician license" means a valid and current license issued by the
35 Commissioner of Labor in accordance with the provisions of this article to perform work as an
36 HVAC residential technician.

37 (h) "HVAC technician license" means a valid and current license issued by the
38 Commissioner of Labor in accordance with the provisions of this article to perform work as an
39 HVAC technician.

40 (i) "Routine maintenance" means work performed on a routine schedule that includes
41 cleaning and/or replacing filters, greasing or lubricating motor bearings, adjusting and/or replacing

42 belts, checking system temperature, checking gas temperature, adjusting gas pressure as
43 required, and checking voltage and amperage draw on heating, ventilating, and cooling systems.

44 (j) "Single family dwelling" means a building that is occupied as, or designed or intended
45 for occupancy as, a single residence for one or more persons.

§21-16-3. License required; exemptions.

1 (a) On and after January 1, 2016, a person performing or offering to perform work on a
2 heating, ventilating, and cooling system in this state shall have a license issued by the
3 Commissioner of Labor, in accordance with the provisions of this article and the legislative rules
4 promulgated pursuant hereto: *Provided*, That the commissioner shall issue HVAC residential
5 technician licenses to qualified applicants without examination who present satisfactory evidence
6 no later than December 31, 2019, of having at least 2,000 hours of experience and/or training
7 working on heating, ventilating, and cooling systems: *Provided, however*, That if a license issued
8 under the authority of this subsection subsequently lapses, the applicant is subject to all licensure
9 requirements, including the examination.

10 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article to the contrary, the commissioner
11 shall credit verified military service, training, or education toward the licensing requirements, ~~other~~
12 ~~than~~ including examination requirements pursuant to §21-16-11 of this code, for a license issued
13 under this article. The commissioner shall expedite the issuance of a provisional license or a
14 license by endorsement or reciprocity under this article to an applicant who: has verified military
15 experience or holds a current license issued by another jurisdiction that has license requirements
16 that are substantially equivalent to the license requirements of this state.

17 (c) A person licensed under this article shall carry a copy of the license on any job in which
18 heating, ventilating, and cooling work is being performed.

19 (d) This article does not apply to:

20 (1) A person who personally performs work on a heating, ventilating, and cooling system
21 in a single family dwelling owned by that person or by a member of that person's immediate family;

22 (2) A person who performs work on a heating, ventilating, and cooling system at a
23 manufacturing plant or other industrial establishment as an employee of the person, firm, or
24 corporation operating the plant or establishment;

25 (3) A person who performs only electrical, or plumbing work on a heating, ventilating, and
26 cooling system, which includes, but is not limited to, thermostats, bathroom fans, and tankless
27 water heater ventilation, so long as the work is within the scope of practice which the person is
28 otherwise licensed or authorized to perform; or

29 (4) A person who performs routine maintenance on any heating, ventilating, and cooling
30 system.

§21-16-5. Rule-making authority.

1 (a) The Commissioner of Labor shall propose rules for legislative approval, in accordance
2 with the provisions of §21-16-5 *et seq.* of this code, for the implementation and enforcement of
3 the provisions of this article, which shall provide:

4 (1) Standards and procedures for issuing and renewing licenses, applications,
5 examinations, and qualifications: Provided, That an HVAC technician may not be required to
6 provide documentation of more than 2,000 hours of total work, training, and experience as a
7 requirement for licensure;

8 (2) Provisions for the granting of HVAC technician licenses, without examination, to
9 applicants who present satisfactory evidence no later than July 1, 2016, of having at least 2,000
10 hours of experience and/or training working on heating, ventilating, and cooling systems and at
11 least 6,000 hours of experience and/or training in heating, ventilating, and cooling or related work,
12 to include other sheet metal industry tasks: *Provided, That if a license issued under the authority*
13 *of this subsection subsequently lapses, the applicant is subject to all licensure requirements,*
14 *including the examination;*

15 (3) Reciprocity provisions;

16 (4) Procedures for investigating complaints and revoking or suspending licenses, including
17 appeal procedures;

18 (5) Fees for issuance and renewal of licenses and other costs necessary to administer the
19 provisions of this article;

20 (6) Enforcement procedures; and

21 (7) Any other rules necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article.

22 (b) The commissioner may promulgate emergency rules pursuant to the provisions of
23 §29A-3-15 of this code for the purpose of describing:

24 (1) Provisions for the granting of HVAC residential technician licenses without examination
25 to qualified applicants who present satisfactory evidence no later than December 31, 2019, of
26 having at least 2,000 hours of experience and/or training working on heating, ventilating, and
27 cooling systems: *Provided*, That if a license issued under the authority of this subsection
28 subsequently lapses, the applicant is subject to all licensure requirements, including the
29 examination;

30 (2) Provisions for developing an examination required to obtain an HVAC residential
31 technician license commensurate with the scope of practice for HVAC residential technicians as
32 described in §21-16-2(d) of this code: *Provided*, ~~That applicants for such license examination~~
33 ~~must provide satisfactory evidence of having at least 2,000 hours of experience and/or training~~
34 ~~working on heating, ventilating, and cooling systems: *Provided, however*,~~ That the rules proposed
35 by the commissioner shall provide that the HVAC residential license examination will be
36 developed in consultation with HVAC industry representatives; and

37 (3) Provisions for allowing HVAC residential technicians to perform work on nonresidential
38 heating, ventilating, and cooling systems subject to rules promulgated by the commissioner.

§21-16-8. Penalties.

1 (a) On and after January 1, 2016, a person performing or offering to perform, or an
2 employer authorizing a person not exempt by the provisions of section three of this article, to

3 perform, heating, ventilating and cooling work without a license issued by the Commissioner of
4 Labor, is subject to a cease and desist order.

5 (b) A person continuing to perform, or an employer continuing to authorize a person not
6 exempt by the provisions of §21-16-3 of this code, to perform, heating, ventilating, and cooling
7 work after the issuance of a cease and desist order ~~is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon~~
8 ~~conviction thereof,~~ is subject to the following penalties:

9 (1) For the first offense, a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$1,000;

10 (2) For the second offense, a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$2,000;

11 (3) For the third and subsequent offenses, a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than
12 \$5,000, ~~and confinement in jail for not more than one year.~~

13 (c) Each day after official notice is given, a person continues to perform, or an employer
14 continues to authorize a person to perform, and which is not exempt by the provisions of section
15 three of this article, heating, ventilating and cooling work, is a separate offense and punishable
16 accordingly.

17 (d)(1) The Commissioner of Labor may institute proceedings in the circuit court of
18 Kanawha County or of the county where the alleged violation of the provisions of this article
19 occurred or are occurring to enjoin any violation of any provision of this article.

20 (2) A circuit court may by injunction compel compliance with this article, with the lawful
21 orders of the Commissioner of Labor and with any final decision of the Commissioner of Labor.

22 (3) The Commissioner of Labor shall be represented in all such proceedings by the
23 Attorney General or his or her assistants.

24 (e) Any person adversely affected by an action of the Commissioner of Labor may appeal
25 the action pursuant to chapter 29A of this code.

§21-16-11. Veteran qualifications for license as HVAC Technician.

1 (a) Any person who has served as a member of any branch of the United States Armed
2 Forces, the National Guard, or armed forces reserve, may apply for licensure, if:

3 (1) He or she has successfully completed a course of instruction required to qualify him or
4 her for rating as a HVAC Technician's mate or other equivalent rating in his or her particular
5 branch of the armed forces;

6 (2) He or she meets the requirements of this article;

7 (3) He or she has been honorably discharged from service and submits, to the
8 Commissioner of Labor, a photostatic copy of the honorable discharge;

9 (4) He or she submits a completed application to the Commissioner of Labor; and

10 (5) He or she pays the prescribed licensing fees.

11 (b) A veteran who has allowed more than 30 years to pass from the date of his or her
12 successful completion of a course of instruction and the date of application for licensure in this
13 state may be required to attend additional training courses.

CHAPTER 29. MISCELLANEOUS BOARDS AND OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 3B. SUPERVISION OF ELECTRICIANS.

§29-3B-2. Necessity of license; definitions.

1 After the effective date of this article, no electrical work may be performed, offered or
2 engaged in for compensation or hire within the state of West Virginia by any person, firm or
3 corporation unless such person, firm or corporation possesses a license and a certificate issued
4 by the state Fire Marshal in accordance with this article; Provided, That any person who is
5 assisting a Journeyman or Master electrician does not need a license to perform such supervised
6 work, and a copy of the license is posted on any job in which electrical work is being performed
7 for hire.

8 As used in this article:

9 ~~(a) "Apprentice electrician" means a person with interest in and an aptitude for performing~~
10 ~~electrical work but who alone is not capable of performing electrical work unless directly~~
11 ~~supervised by a higher license classification.~~

12 ~~(b)~~(a) “Electrical contractor” means a person, firm or corporation who engages in the
13 business of electrical work and employs master electricians, journeyman electricians, ~~apprentice~~
14 ~~electricians~~ or other related workers for the construction, alteration, or repair of any electrical
15 wiring, equipment or systems as defined in the scope of the national electric code.

16 ~~(e)~~(b) “Electrical work” means the installation of wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures, other
17 appliances, equipment, or systems for transmitting, carrying, controlling, or using electricity as
18 defined in the scope of the national electric code.

19 ~~(d)~~(c) “Journeyman electrician” means a person qualified by at least ~~four years~~ one year
20 of electrical work experience to do any work installing wires, conduits, apparatus, equipment,
21 fixtures, and other appliances, provided that this classification is not authorized to design electrical
22 systems.

23 ~~(e)~~(d) “License” means a valid and current certificate of competency issued by the state
24 Fire Marshal.

25 ~~(f)~~(e) “Master electrician” means a person with at least ~~five~~ two years of electrical work
26 experience, including experience in all phases of electrical wiring and installation, who is
27 competent to design electrical systems, and to instruct and supervise the electrical work of
28 journeyman electricians, ~~apprentice electricians~~, and other related workers.

29 ~~(g)~~(f) “Specialty electrician” means a person qualified to perform electrical work in a limited
30 or specialized area.

**§29-3B-3. Exemptions; nonapplicability of license requirements; legislative rules for
limited reciprocity.**

1 (a) This article does not apply to and no license may be required for: ~~(1) A person who~~
2 ~~performs electrical work with respect to any property owned or leased by that person; (2) a person~~
3 ~~who performs electrical work at any manufacturing plant or other industrial establishment as an~~
4 ~~employee of the person, firm or corporation operating the plant or establishment; (3) a person~~
5 ~~who performs electrical work while employed by an employer who engages in the business of~~

~~6 selling appliances at retail, so long as such electrical work is performed incident to the installation
7 or repair of appliances sold by the employer; (4) a person who, while employed by a public utility
8 or its affiliate, performs electrical work in connection with the furnishing of public utility service; or
9 (5) any government employee performing electrical work on government property.~~

10 (1) A person who performs electrical work with respect to any property owned or leased
11 by that person or that person's immediate family;

12 (2) A person who performs electrical work at any manufacturing plant or other industrial
13 establishment as an employee of the firm or corporation operating the plant or establishment;

14 (3) A person who performs electrical work while employed by an employer who engages
15 in the business of selling appliances at retail, so long as such electrical work is performed incident
16 to the installation or repair of appliances sold by the employer;

17 (4) A person who, while employed by a public utility or its affiliate, performs electrical work
18 in connection with the furnishing of public utility service;

19 (5) Any government employee performing electrical work on government property; or

20 (6) Any person who performs low voltage electrical work with only low voltage wiring will
21 not be required to have an electrician's license other than a specialty license. Low voltage
22 electrical work is 80 volts or less, and directly related wiring. Wiring is directly related if it:

23 (A) Originated at the load-side terminals of a disconnecting means or junction box that has
24 been installed, complete with line-side connections by others for the specific purpose of supply to
25 the low voltage wiring system involved;

26 (B) Is permanently and legibly marked to identify the low voltage wiring system supplied;

27 and

28 (C) Is not installed in a location considered hazardous under the National Electrical Code.

29 (b)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article to the contrary, a journeyman or
30 master electrician license may be issued for a person who is a former resident of this state, who
31 formerly held an electrician's license issued by this state, who has obtained an equivalent

32 electrician license from another state, and who returns to this state as a permanent resident,
33 without requiring the person to meet the application or examination requirements that would
34 otherwise be imposed on the person by the requirements of this article when the issuance of the
35 license is permitted by legislative rules promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this subsection.

36 (2) The State Fire Marshal shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with
37 the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to provide for the licensing of electricians with
38 equivalent qualifications described in subdivision (1) of this subsection. Notwithstanding any other
39 provision of this code to the contrary, the legislative rules described in this subsection may not be
40 filed as emergency rules.

**§29-3B-4. Licenses; classes of licenses; issuance of licenses by commissioner;
qualifications required for license; nontransferability and nonassignability of
licenses; expiration of license; renewal; reciprocity.**

1 (a) The following classes of license may be issued by the State Fire Marshal: "Master
2 electrician license," "journeyman electrician license," ~~"apprentice electrician license"~~ and
3 "temporary electrician license." Additional classes of specialty electrician license may be issued
4 by the State Fire Marshal.

5 (b) The State Fire Marshal shall issue the appropriate class of license upon a finding that
6 the applicant possesses the qualifications for the class of license to be issued. When considering
7 whether an applicant possess the qualifications for the class of license, the State Fire Marshal
8 shall consider whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus on the
9 license being sought.

10 (1) The State Fire Marshal may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because
11 of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that
12 bears a rational nexus to the activity requiring licensure. In determining whether a criminal
13 conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the State Fire Marshal shall
14 consider at a minimum:

15 (A) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

16 (B) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

17 (C) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform
18 the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

19 (D) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

20 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is
21 disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the State Fire Marshal shall
22 permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:

23 (A) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release
24 from incarceration, whichever is later;

25 (B) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time
26 following the disqualifying offense; and

27 (C) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a
28 conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period
29 of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the State Fire Marshal.

30 (3) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure may
31 petition the State Fire Marshal at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal
32 record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This petition shall include sufficient
33 details about the individual's criminal record to enable the State Fire Marshal to identify the
34 jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of
35 the conviction.

36 (c) The State Fire Marshal shall propose rules for legislative approval regarding
37 qualifications for testing, issuance of licenses, and renewal in accordance with the provisions of
38 §29A-3-1 *et seq.*, of this code.

39 (d) To the extent that other jurisdictions provide for the licensing of electricians, the State
40 Fire Marshal ~~may~~ shall grant the same or equivalent classification of license without written

41 examination upon satisfactory proof furnished to the State Fire Marshal that the qualifications of
42 the applicant demonstrate that the person can perform work safely and competently and is in
43 good standing with all other jurisdictions where he or she is licensed ~~are equal to the qualifications~~
44 ~~required by this article~~ and upon payment of the required fee: ~~Provided, That as a condition to~~
45 ~~reciprocity, the other jurisdictions must extend to licensed electricians of this state, the same or~~
46 ~~equivalent classification.~~

47 (e) In addition to any other information required, the applicant's ~~Social Security~~ social
48 security number shall be recorded on any application for a license submitted pursuant to the
49 provisions of this section.

§29-3B-6. Relicensing without retesting after nonrenewal under certain circumstances.

1 An electrician previously licensed by the State Fire Marshal who did not renew his or her
2 electrician's license may renew the license without retesting within ~~three~~ five years of the date of
3 the last renewal: *Provided*, That the electrician's license had not been revoked and that the
4 applicant pays double the current fee if his or her license has been lapsed for two renewal periods,
5 ~~or triple the current fee if his or her license has been lapsed for three renewal periods.~~

§29-3B-8. Effect of noncompliance with article; failure to obtain license.

1 Any person, firm, corporation, or employee thereof, or any representative, member or
2 officer of such firm or corporation, individually, entering upon or engaging in the business of
3 performing any electrical work as defined in this article, without obtaining the required license or
4 otherwise complying with this article, is for the first offense ~~guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon~~
5 ~~conviction thereof~~, shall be fined not less than \$100, nor more than \$500. For a second ~~and each~~
6 ~~subsequent~~ offense, the penalty and punishment is a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than
7 \$1,000. For the third and each subsequent offense, the penalty and punishment is a fine of not
8 less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000.

9 Each day during which such electrical work is performed without the required license or
10 while in noncompliance with any of the provisions of this article, after official notice that such work
11 is unlawful, is a separate offense.

12 Any electrical work performed by a person, firm, or corporation which is determined by the
13 State Fire Marshal to constitute a safety or health hazard to members of the public or any electrical
14 work of an extensive nature being performed by any person without the required license or
15 otherwise in noncompliance with the requirements of this article or contrary to an order or rule
16 promulgated lawfully by the State Fire Marshal, is subject to being issued a citation or a civil action
17 in the name of the state in the circuit court of the county where such work is being performed for
18 an injunction against such person, firm or corporation, enjoining such work or violation. A circuit
19 court by mandatory or prohibitory injunction may compel compliance with the provisions of this
20 article, with the lawful orders of the State Fire Marshal and with any final decision of the State Fire
21 Marshal or State Fire Commission. The State Fire Marshal shall be represented in all such
22 proceedings by the Attorney General or his or her assistants.

ARTICLE 3D. SUPERVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION WORK.

§29-3D-2. Definitions.

1 As used in this article and the legislative rules promulgated pursuant to this article:

2 “Combination Fire/Smoke Damper” means a device that meets both fire damper and
3 smoke damper requirements.

4 “Damper” means a fire damper, smoke damper or combination fire/smoke damper.

5 “Damper work” means to install, test, maintain or repair a damper.

6 “Engineered Suppression Systems Installer” means a person certified by a manufacturer
7 to install, alter, extend, maintain, ~~layout~~ lay out, or repair an agent suppression system.

8 “Engineered Suppression Systems Technician” means a person certified by a
9 manufacturer to maintain or repair an agent suppression system.

10 “Fire damper” means a device installed in an air distribution system, designed to close
11 automatically upon detection of heat, to interrupt migratory airflow and to restrict the passage of
12 flame. Fire dampers are classified for use in either static systems or for dynamic systems, where
13 the dampers are rated for closure under airflow.

14 ~~“Fire protection damper technician” means a person certified to install, test, maintain or~~
15 ~~repair a damper.~~

16 ~~“Fire protection damper technician in training” means a person with interest in and an~~
17 ~~aptitude for performing installation, maintenance or repair work to a damper as defined in this~~
18 ~~article, but who alone is not capable or authorized to perform damper work unless directly~~
19 ~~supervised by a Fire Protection Damper Technician.~~

20 “Fire protection layout technician” is an individual who has achieved National Institute for
21 Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) Level III, or has achieved from the National
22 Fire Protection Association a certification in Certified Water Based Systems Professional
23 (CWBSP), or has passed an exam approved by the state Fire Marshal from the National
24 Inspection Testing Certification (NITC) organization, or higher certification as recognized by the
25 state Fire Marshal, and who has the knowledge, experience and skills necessary to layout lay out
26 fire protection systems based on engineering design documents.

27 “Fire protection system” means any fire protection suppression device or system
28 designed, installed, and maintained in accordance with the applicable National Fire Protection
29 Association (NFPA) codes and standards, but does not include public or private mobile fire
30 vehicles.

31 “Fire protection work” means the installation, alteration, extension, maintenance, or testing
32 of all piping, materials, and equipment inside a building, including the use of shop drawings
33 prepared by a fire protection layout technician, in connection with the discharge of water, other

34 special fluids, chemicals or gases and backflow preventers for fire protection for the express
35 purpose of extinguishing or controlling fire.

36 “Journeyman sprinkler fitter” means a person qualified by at least ~~5,000~~ 2,000 hours of
37 work experience or a score of at least 70 percent on an NITC or other equivalent examination
38 selected by the state Fire Marshal related to installing, adjusting, repairing, and dismantling fire
39 protection systems and who is competent to instruct and supervise the fire protection work;
40 Provided, That current license renewal exemptions to examinations apply. ~~of a sprinkler fitter in~~
41 ~~training.~~

42 “License” means a valid and current license issued by the State Fire Marshal in
43 accordance with the provisions of this article.

44 “Portable Fire Extinguisher Technician” means a person certified in accordance with NFPA
45 10 to install, maintain, repair, and certify portable fire extinguishers as defined by NFPA 10.

46 “Preengineered Suppression Systems Installer” means a person certified by a
47 manufacturer to install, alter, extend, maintain, ~~layout~~ lay out or repair an agent suppression
48 system.

49 “Preengineered Suppression Systems Technician” means a person certified to maintain
50 or repair an agent suppression system.

51 “Single family dwelling” means a building which is occupied as, or designed or intended
52 for occupancy as, a single residence for one or more persons.

53 “Smoke Damper” means a device within an operating (dynamic) air distribution system to
54 control the movement of smoke.

55 ~~“Sprinkler fitter in training” means a person with interest in and an aptitude for performing~~
56 ~~fire protection work but who alone is not capable of performing such work, and who has fewer~~

57 ~~than 5,000 hours of experience installing, adjusting, repairing and dismantling fire protection~~
58 ~~systems.~~

§29-3D-3. License required; exemptions.

1 (a) On and after January 1, 2009, a person performing or offering to perform fire protection
2 work in this state shall have a license issued by the State Fire Marshal, in accordance with the
3 provisions of this article.

4 ~~(b) On and after January 1, 2016, a person performing or offering to perform damper work~~
5 ~~in this state shall have a license issued by the State Fire Marshal, in accordance with the~~
6 ~~provisions of this article and the legislative rules promulgated pursuant hereto: *Provided*, That a~~
7 ~~person may not be licensed to perform damper work in this state without first being licensed as a~~
8 ~~HVAC technician pursuant to the provisions of §21-16-1 *et seq.* of this code.~~

9 ~~(e)(b)~~ A person licensed under this article must carry a copy of the license on any job in
10 which fire protection work is being performed.

11 ~~(d)(c)~~ This article does not apply to:

12 (1) A person who personally performs fire protection work or damper work on a single
13 family dwelling owned or leased, ~~and occupied by that person~~ or that person's immediate family;

14 (2) A person who performs fire protection work or damper work at any manufacturing plant
15 or other industrial establishment as an employee of the person, firm or corporation operating the
16 plant or establishment;

17 (3) A person who, while employed by a public utility or its affiliate, performs fire protection
18 work in connection with the furnishing of public utility service.

19 (4) A person who performs fire protection work while engaging in the business of installing,
20 altering or repairing water distribution or drainage lines outside the foundation walls of a building,
21 public or private sewage treatment or water treatment systems including all associated structures
22 or buildings, sewers, or underground utility services;

23 (5) A person who performs fire protection work while engaged in the installation, extension,
24 dismantling, adjustment, repair or alteration of a heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC)
25 system, air-veyor system, air exhaust system or air handling system; or

26 (6) A person who performs fire protection work at a coal mine that is being actively mined
27 or where coal is being processed.

§29-3D-4. Rule-making authority.

1 The State Fire Marshal shall propose rules for legislative approval, in accordance with the
2 provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, for the implementation and enforcement of the
3 provisions of this article, which shall provide:

4 (1) Standards and procedures for issuing and renewing licenses, including classifications
5 of licenses as defined in this article, applications, examinations and qualifications: *Provided*, That
6 the rules shall require a person to be licensed as a HVAC technician ~~or HVAC technician in~~
7 ~~training~~ pursuant to §21-16-1 *et seq.* of this code and the rules promulgated pursuant thereto,
8 before ~~being granted a license to perform~~ performing damper work pursuant to this article;

9 (2) Provisions for the granting of licenses without examination, to applicants who present
10 satisfactory evidence of having the expertise required to perform fire protection work at the level
11 of the classifications defined in this article and who apply for licensure on or before July 1, 2009:
12 *Provided*, That if a license issued under the authority of this subsection subsequently lapses, the
13 applicant is subject to all licensure requirements, including the examination;

14 (3) Provisions for the granting of licenses without examination, to applicants who present
15 satisfactory evidence of having the expertise required to perform damper work at the level of the
16 classifications defined in this article and who apply for licensure on or before July 1, 2016:
17 *Provided*, That if a license issued under the authority of this subsection subsequently lapses, the
18 applicant is subject to all licensure requirements, including the examination;

19 (4) Reciprocity provisions;

20 (5) Procedures for investigating complaints and revoking or suspending licenses, including
21 appeal procedures;

22 (6) Fees for testing, issuance and renewal of licenses, and other costs necessary to
23 administer the provisions of this article;

24 (7) Enforcement procedures; and

25 (8) Any other rules necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article.

§29-3D-6. Denial, suspension and revocation of license.

1 (a) The State Fire Marshal may deny a license to any applicant who fails to comply with
2 the rules established by the State Fire Marshal, or who lacks the necessary qualifications. When
3 considering whether an applicant ~~possess~~ possesses the qualifications for a license, the State
4 Fire Marshal shall consider whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus
5 on the license being sought.

6 (1) The State Fire Marshal may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because
7 of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that
8 bears a rational nexus to the activity requiring licensure. In determining whether a criminal
9 conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the State Fire Marshal shall
10 consider at a minimum:

11 (A) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

12 (B) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

13 (C) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform
14 the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

15 (D) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

16 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is
17 disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the State Fire Marshal shall
18 permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:

19 (A) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release
20 from incarceration, whichever is later;

21 (B) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time
22 following the disqualifying offense; and

23 (C) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a
24 conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period
25 of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the State Fire Marshal.

26 (3) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure may
27 petition the State Fire Marshal at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal
28 record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This petition shall include sufficient
29 details about the individual's criminal record to enable the State Fire Marshal to identify the
30 jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of
31 the conviction.

32 (b) The State Fire Marshal may, upon complaint or upon his or her own inquiry, and after
33 notice to the licensee, suspend or revoke a licensee's license if:

34 (1) The license was granted upon an application or documents supporting the application
35 which materially misstated the terms of the applicant's qualifications or experience;

36 (2) The licensee subscribed or vouched for a material misstatement in his or her
37 application for licensure; or

38 (3) The licensee incompetently or unsafely performs ~~plumbing~~, fire protection work or
39 damper work.

§29-3D-7. Penalties.

1 (a) On and after January 1, 2009, a person performing or offering to perform fire protection
2 work without a license issued by the State Fire Marshal, is subject to a citation.

3 ~~(b) On and after January 1, 2016, a person performing or offering to perform, or an~~
4 ~~employer authorizing a person not exempt by the provisions of §29-3D-3 of this code, to perform,~~
5 ~~damper work without a license issued by the State Fire Marshal, is subject to a citation.~~

6 ~~(e)(b)~~ Any person continuing to engage in fire protection work ~~or damper work~~ after the
7 issuance of a citation ~~is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof,~~ is subject to the
8 following penalties:

9 (1) For the first offense, a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$1,000;

10 (2) For the second offense, a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$2,000, ~~or~~
11 ~~confinement in jail for not more than six months, or both;~~

12 (3) For the third and subsequent offenses, a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than
13 \$5,000, ~~and confinement in jail for not less than thirty days nor more than one year.~~

14 ~~(d)(c)~~ Each day after a citation is given that a person continues to perform, or an employer
15 continues to authorize a person to perform, fire protection work ~~or damper work~~, which is not
16 exempt by the provisions of §29-3D-3 of this code, is a separate offense and punishable
17 accordingly.

18 ~~(e)(d)~~(1) The State Fire Marshal may institute proceedings in the circuit court of Kanawha
19 County or the county where the alleged violation of the provisions of this article occurred or are
20 now occurring to enjoin any violation of any provision of this article.

21 (2) A circuit court by injunction may compel compliance with the provisions of this article,
22 with the lawful orders of the State Fire Marshal and with any final decision of the State Fire
23 Marshal.

24 (3) The State Fire Marshal shall be represented in all such proceedings by the Attorney
25 General or his or her assistants.

26 ~~(f)(e)~~ Any person adversely affected by an action of the State Fire Marshal may appeal
27 the action pursuant to the provisions of chapter 29A of this code.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to alter requirements for licensure relating to elevator mechanics, crane operators, HVAC, electricians, and plumbers.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.