

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2326

BY DELEGATES FOSTER AND FAST

[Introduced February 12, 2021; Referred to the
Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §29-3B-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
 2 to exempting from licensure as an electrician a person who installs low voltage electrical
 3 wiring.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3B. SUPERVISION OF ELECTRICIANS.

§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 performs
 2 electrical work with respect to any property owned or leased by that person; (2) a person who
 3 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; or (6) any
 10 person who installs low voltage electrical systems (Fire and Burglar Alarm Communication
 11 Systems) with only low voltage wiring, 80 volts or less, and directly related wiring. Wiring is directly
 12 related if it:

13 (1) Originates at the load-side terminals of a disconnecting means or junction box that has
 14 been installed, complete with line-side connections by others for the specific purpose of supply to
 15 the low voltage wiring system involved;

16 (2) Is permanently and legibly marked to identify the low voltage wiring system supplied;
 17 and

18 (3) Is not installed in a location considered as hazardous under the National Electrical
 19 Code.

20 (b)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article to the contrary, a journeyman or
21 master electrician license may be issued for a person who is a former resident of this state, who
22 formerly held an electrician's license issued by this state, who has obtained an equivalent
23 electrician license from another state, and who returns to this state as a permanent resident,
24 without requiring the person to meet the application or examination requirements that would
25 otherwise be imposed on the person by the requirements of this article when the issuance of the
26 license is permitted by legislative rules promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this subsection.

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

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to exempt from licensure as an electrician a person who only installs low voltage wiring.

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