

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2006**

—————  
A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTRICIANS

Introduced By: Representatives Faria, Melo, Laroche, and Almeida

Date Introduced: March 22, 2006

Referred To: House Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           "SECTION 1. Sections 5-6-1, 5-6-2, 5-6-7, 5-6-8, 5-6-11, 5-6-13, 5-6-16, 5-6-19, 5-6-24  
2   and 5-6-29 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-6 entitled "Electricians" are hereby amended to read  
3   as follows:

4           **5-6-1. Definitions.** -- For purposes of this chapter:

5           (a) "Electrical contractor" means a corporation, firm or person, who, by the employment  
6   of journeypersons, performs the work of installing wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures, and other  
7   appliances for carrying or using electricity for light, heat or power purposes exclusive of low  
8   voltage wiring for heating or refrigeration equipment for service, maintenance, and installation.

9           (b) "Electrical sign contractor" means a corporation, firm, or person who, by the  
10   employment of electrical sign installers, performs the work of installing, altering, and servicing  
11   electrical signs.

12           (c) "Electrical sign installer" means a person engaged in installing, altering, and  
13   servicing electrical signs.

14           (d) "Fire alarm contractor" means a corporation, firm, or person who, by the employment  
15   of fire alarm installers, performs the work of installing, altering and servicing and testing of fire  
16   alarm systems in accordance with the Rhode Island Fire Safety Code, chapters 28.1 -- 28.39 of  
17   title 23.

18           (e) "Fire alarm installation" means the installation or alteration of a fire alarm system  
19   according to the Rhode Island Fire Safety Code.

1 (f) "Fire alarm installer" means a person engaged in installing, altering, or servicing and  
2 testing of a fire alarm system used for the purpose of causing an alarm to be sounded in case of  
3 fire.

4 (g) "Journey person electrician" means a person doing any work of installing wires,  
5 conduits, apparatus, fixtures, and other appliances.

6 (h) "Oil burner contractor" means a corporation, firm, or person, who by the employment  
7 of oil burner persons performs the work of installing and servicing oil and domestic automatic  
8 coal burning heating equipment, including central heating plants, and domestic type range  
9 burners, and including all accessory equipment and control systems, excluding thermostatic,  
10 mechanical, and low voltage wiring on heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment.

11 (i) "Oil burner person" means a person doing any work or installing or servicing oil  
12 burners and other equipment installed and serviced by an oil burner contractor.

13 (j) "Lightning protection contractor" means a corporation firm or person, who by  
14 employment of lightning protection installers, performs the work of installing, altering,  
15 maintaining, lightning protection systems. The "systems" are defined and should be installed in  
16 accordance with NFPA 780 current edition, and all referenced NFPA documents.

17 (k) "Lightning protection installer" means a person engaged in the installation, service or  
18 maintenance of a lightning protection system according to NFPA 780 current edition.

19 **5-6-2. Work for which license required.** -- (a) (1) No person, firm, or corporation shall  
20 enter into, engage in, solicit, advertise, bid for, or work at the business of installing wires,  
21 conduits, apparatus, fixtures, electrical signs, lightning protection equipment as defined in section  
22 5-6-1, and other appliances for carrying or using or generating electricity for light, heat, fire  
23 alarms, as defined in chapter 28.25 of title 23, entitled "fire alarm systems", or power purposes,  
24 exclusive of low voltage wiring for heating/refrigeration equipment, or work at the business of  
25 removing and reattaching existing electrical meters, unless that person, firm, or corporation shall  
26 have received a license and a certificate for the business, issued by the state board of examiners of  
27 electricians of the division of professional regulation of the department of labor and training in  
28 accordance with the provisions set forth in this chapter.

29 (2) That person shall carry this license on his or her person at all times while so engaged,  
30 and shall affix his or her contractor's license number to any advertisement and/or contract he or  
31 she executes and/or to any bid he or she files with any consumer for his or her professional  
32 services and to any applicable permit required for the performance of those services.

33 (b) Any person, firm or corporation which is required to apply for a permit from a local  
34 building official for any work required to be performed by a person licensed under the provisions

1 of this chapter shall cause the work to be performed by a person licensed under the provisions of  
2 this chapter; provided, that the provisions of this section, except the provision regarding removing  
3 and reattaching existing electrical meters, shall not apply to owner-occupied single family homes.

4 **5-6-7. Forms of licenses.** -- ~~Eleven (11)~~ Thirteen (13) forms of licenses shall be issued:

5 (1) The first, subsequently referred to as Certificate A, is known as an "electrical  
6 contractor's license";

7 (2) The second, subsequently referred to as Certificate B, is known as a "journeyman  
8 electrician's license";

9 (3) The third, subsequently referred to as Certificate C, is known as a "limited premises  
10 license";

11 (4) The fourth, subsequently referred to as Certificate E, is known as an "oil burner  
12 contractor's license";

13 (5) The fifth, subsequently referred to as Certificate F, is known as an "oil burner's  
14 license";

15 (6) The sixth, subsequently referred to as Certificate AF, is known as a "fire alarm  
16 contractor's license";

17 (7) The seventh, subsequently referred to as Certificate BF, is known as a "fire alarm  
18 installer's license";

19 (8) The eighth, subsequently referred to as Certificate SCF, is known as "an electrical  
20 sign contractor's license";

21 (9) The ninth, subsequently referred to as Certificate CF, is known as "an electrical sign  
22 installer's license";

23 (10) The tenth, subsequently referred to as Certificate D, is known as a "limited  
24 maintenance license"; ~~and~~

25 (11) The eleventh, subsequently referred to as Certificate M shall be known as a "limited  
26 maintenance journeyman license"; ~~and~~

27 (12) The twelfth subsequently referred to as certificate LPC shall be known as a  
28 "lightning protection contractor's license"; and

29 (13) The thirteenth subsequently referred to as certificate LPI shall be known as a  
30 "lightning protection installer's license."

31 **5-6-8. Contractor's certificates/licenses.** -- (a) Electrical contractor's license. -  
32 Certificate A shall be issued to any person, firm or corporation, qualified under this chapter,  
33 engaging in, or about to engage in, the business of installing electrical wires, conduits, apparatus,  
34 fixtures, fire alarm and safety communication systems and other electrical appliances, excluding

1 low voltage wiring for heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment. The certificate shall  
2 specify the name of the person, firm, or corporation applying and the name of the person, who in  
3 the case of a firm is one of its members, and in the case of a corporation, one of its officers,  
4 passing the examination, by which he or she or it is authorized to enter upon or engage in  
5 business as prescribed in the certificate. The holding of a Certificate A does not entitle the holder  
6 individually to engage in or perform the actual work of installing electric wires, conduits, and  
7 appliances as previously described in this chapter, but entitles him or her to conduct business as  
8 an electrical contractor.

9 (b) Oil burner contractor's license. - A Certificate E shall be issued to any person, firm,  
10 or corporation qualified under this chapter, and engaged in, or about to engage in, the business of  
11 an oil burner contractor, as defined in section 5-6-1. The certificate shall specify the name of the  
12 person, firm, or corporation applying and the name of the person who, in the case of a firm is one  
13 of its members, and in the case of a corporation one of its officers, passing the examination, by  
14 which he or she or it is authorized to enter upon or engage in business as prescribed in the  
15 certificate. The holding of a Certificate E does not entitle the holder individually to engage in or  
16 perform any work on, or in connection with electric wires, conduits, and appliances as previously  
17 described in this chapter, but entitles the holder to contract to do that work to the extent permitted  
18 in this chapter, through the employment of oil burnerpersons holding a Certificate F. An oil  
19 burner contractor who is the holder of a Certificate A is not required to obtain a Certificate E.

20 (c) Fire alarm contractor's license. - A Certificate AF shall be issued to any person, firm,  
21 or corporation qualified under this chapter, and engaged in or about to engage in the business of a  
22 fire alarm contractor, as defined in section 5-6-1. The certificate shall specify the name of the  
23 person, firm, or corporation applying and the person who, in the case of a firm is one of its  
24 members, and in the case of a corporation one of its officers, passing the examination, by which  
25 he or she or it is authorized to enter upon or engage in business as prescribed in the certificate.  
26 The holding of a Certificate AF does not entitle the holder individually to engage in or perform  
27 and work on, or in connection with, electric wires, fire alarm wires, conduits, and appliances as  
28 previously described in this chapter, but entitles the holder to contract to do that work to the  
29 extent permitted in this chapter through the employment of fire alarm installers holding a  
30 Certificate BF. A contractor who is the holder of a Certificate A is not required to obtain a  
31 Certificate BF.

32 (d) Electrical sign contractor's license. - A Certificate SCF shall be issued to any person,  
33 firm, or corporation qualified under this chapter, and engaged in or about to engage in the  
34 business of electrical sign installations, as defined in section 5-6-1.

1           (e) Lightning protection contractor. A certificate LPC shall be issued to any person, firm  
2 or corporation qualified under this chapter and engaged in or about to engage in the business of  
3 lightning protection contractor, as defined in section 5-6-1. The certificate LPC shall specify the  
4 name of the person, firm or corporation applying and the person who in the case of a firm, is one  
5 of its members, and in the case of a corporation, one of its officers, passing the examination by,  
6 which he or she or it is authorized to enter upon or engage in business as prescribed in the  
7 certificate. The holding of a certificate LPC does not entitle the holder individually to engage in  
8 or perform and work on, or in connection with the installation of lightning protection equipment  
9 as defined in section 5-6-1, unless that individual also holds a certificate LPI, but entitles the  
10 holder to contract to do that work to the extent permitted in this chapter through the employment  
11 of lightning protection installers holding a certificate LPI.

12           ~~**5-6-11. Certificate/license of oil burnerperson, fire alarm installer, and electrical**~~  
13 ~~**sign installers. -- Certificate/license of oil burnerperson, fire alarm installer, electrical sign**~~  
14 ~~**installers, and lightning protection installer. --**~~ (a) Oil burnerperson's license. - A Certificate F  
15 shall be granted to any person who has passed an examination before the division of professional  
16 regulation. The certificate shall specify the name of the person authorized to work on, and repair  
17 electric wiring and equipment located in or on oil burners burning fuel oil no heavier than No. 2,  
18 and other equipment serviced by oil burner contractors, to the extent only as is necessary to  
19 service, maintain and repair those oil burners and equipment. The license shall limit the holder of  
20 a Certificate F to do work on electric wiring or equipment located between the meter and those oil  
21 burners and equipment, but in no event to do any electrical work on oil burners burning No. 3, 4,  
22 5, or 6 fuel oil.

23           (b) Fire alarm installer's license. - A Certificate BF shall be granted to any person who  
24 has passed an examination before the division of professional regulation. The certificate shall  
25 specify the name of the person authorized to work on, install, maintain, and test fire alarm  
26 systems.

27           (c) Electrical sign installer's license. - A Certificate CF shall be granted to any person  
28 who has passed an examination before the division of professional regulations. The certificate  
29 shall specify the name of the person authorized to install, maintain, work on, and repair electrical  
30 signs.

31           (d) Lightning protection installer's license. A certificate IPI shall be granted to any  
32 person who has passed an examination before the division of professional regulations. The  
33 certificate shall specify the name of the person authorized to install, maintain, work on, and repair  
34 lightning protection systems as defined in section 5-6-1.

1           **5-6-13. Journeyperson and burnerperson restricted to work as employee of licensee.**

2   -- (a) Except as provided in section 5-6-14, a holder of a Certificate B is not entitled to do any  
3 work of installing wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures, or other appliances for carrying or using  
4 electricity for light, heat, or power purposes except as an employee of a holder of a Certificate A,  
5 of a Certificate C, or a Certificate D, or unless the holder of a Certificate B is also registered as an  
6 electrical contractor and holds a certificate.

7           (b) A holder of a Certificate F is not entitled to do any work on electric wiring, conduits,  
8 apparatus, fixtures, or other appliances for carrying or using electricity for light, heat, or power  
9 purposes, except as an employee of a holder of a Certificate E or A unless the holder of a  
10 Certificate F is also registered as an oil burner contractor and holds a Certificate E.

11           (c) A holder of a Certificate AF is limited to fire alarm, fixtures, equipment for fire alarm  
12 purposes only, and life safety equipment only unless the holder of a Certificate AF also holds a  
13 Certificate BF.

14           (d) A holder of a Certificate SCF is limited to electrical sign contracting only. A  
15 Certificate CF is required for the actual installation of the electrical sign.

16           [\(e\) A holder of a certificate LPC is limited to lightning protection contracting only. A](#)  
17 [certificate LPI is required for the actual installation of the lightning protection system.](#)

18           **5-6-16. License fees.** -- A fee of one hundred twenty dollars (\$120) shall be paid by each  
19 applicant for an electrical contractor's license Class A; thirty-six dollars (\$36.00) for a  
20 journeyperson electrician's license Class B; one hundred twenty dollars (\$120) for a limited  
21 premises license Class C; one hundred twenty dollars (\$120) for an oil burner contractor's license  
22 Class E; thirty-six dollars (\$36.00) for an oil burnerperson's license Class F; one hundred twenty  
23 dollars (\$120) for a fire alarm contractor's license Class AF; thirty-six dollars (\$36.00) for a fire  
24 alarm installer's license Class BF; one hundred twenty dollars (\$120) for an electrical sign  
25 contractor's license SCF; thirty-six dollars (\$36.00) for a sign installer's license Class CF; and one  
26 hundred twenty dollars (\$120) for a limited maintenance license Class D.

27           [A fee of one hundred twenty dollars \(\\$120\) shall be paid by each applicant for a lightning](#)  
28 [protection contractor's license class LPC.](#)

29           [A fee of thirty-six dollars \(\\$36.00\) shall be paid by each applicant for a lightning](#)  
30 [protection installer's license LPI.](#)

31           **5-6-19. Display of licenses.** -- (a) Holders of Licenses B, F, BF, CF, A, E, AF, ~~and~~ SCF,  
32 [LPC, and LPI](#) shall be furnished by the division of professional regulation with evidence of  
33 having been licensed in card form or otherwise, which shall be carried on the person of the  
34 licensee and exhibited on request.

1 (b) Any sign, listing, or advertisement of any type of a holder of those licenses shall  
2 contain the holder's name, address, and license number; provided, only those persons, firms, or  
3 corporations who are holders of a Class A license shall be permitted to advertise for the  
4 employment of journeyman or electrical apprentices.

5 **5-6-24. Apprentices -- Registration fee.** -- (a) This chapter does not forbid the  
6 employment of one properly limited registered apprentice electrician working with and under the  
7 direct personal supervision of a licensed journeyman electrician. Additionally, this chapter does  
8 not forbid the employment of: (1) one properly registered apprentice oil burnerperson working  
9 with and under the direct personal supervision of a licensed oil burnerperson; (2) one properly  
10 registered apprentice fire alarm installer working with and under the direct personal supervision  
11 of a licensed fire alarm installer; or (3) two (2) properly registered apprentice electrical sign  
12 installer working with and under the direct personal supervision of a licensed electrical sign  
13 installer; ~~or~~ (4) one properly registered apprentice maintenance electrician working with and  
14 under the direct personal supervision of a valid Class C or Class D license holder; or (5) one  
15 properly registered apprentice lightning protection installer working with and under the direct  
16 personal supervision of a licensed lightning protection installer (LPI). Apprentices are required to  
17 register with the division of professional regulation initially upon payment of a fee of twenty  
18 dollars (\$20.00) per year. Apprentices are required to register with the division of professional  
19 regulation immediately upon employment with a properly licensed electrical contractor or  
20 lightning protection contractor.

21 (b) Indentured apprentice electricians are required to work a minimum of eight thousand  
22 (8,000) hours over a period of time of not less than four (4) years and successfully complete one  
23 hundred forty-four (144) hours of related instruction per year in an indentured apprenticeship  
24 program approved by the Rhode Island department of labor and training, to qualify for the  
25 journeyman "B" electrician examination. Provided, that the test applicant has possessed for at  
26 least four (4) years prior to the filing of the application a certificate of registration in full force  
27 and effect from the department of labor and training of Rhode Island specifying the person as an  
28 indentured apprentice, and the application of an applicant is accompanied by an affidavit or  
29 affidavits of his or her employer or former employers or other reasonably satisfactory evidence  
30 showing that the applicant has been actually engaged in electrical work as an apprentice in Rhode  
31 Island during those four (4) years, or the application is accompanied by an affidavit or other  
32 reasonably satisfactory evidence showing that the applicant has successfully completed a course  
33 of study in a recognized college or university and has pursued a course of electrical technology  
34 for at least two (2) academic years or is the recipient of an associate degree in electrical

1 technology, and has thereafter been indentured by the department of labor and training as an  
2 apprentice for at least two (2) years and employed as an indentured apprentice by a duly licensed  
3 electrician master in this state for a period of two (2) years, or a showing that the applicant  
4 possesses a certificate of license issued under the laws of another state. Limited registered  
5 apprentice electricians shall be required to work a minimum of four thousand (4,000) hours over a  
6 period of time of not less than two (2) years.

7 (c) Indentured apprentice maintenance electricians are required to work a minimum of  
8 six thousand (6,000) hours over a period of time of not less than three (3) years and successfully  
9 complete a one hundred forty-four (144) hours of related instruction per year in an indentured  
10 apprenticeship program approved by the Rhode Island department of labor and training, to qualify  
11 for the journeyman "M" electrician examination. Provided, however, that the test applicant has  
12 possessed for at least three (3) years prior to the filing of the application a certificate of  
13 registration in full force and effect from the department of labor and training of Rhode Island  
14 specifying the person as an indentured apprentice, and the application of an applicant is  
15 accompanied by an affidavit or affidavits of his or her employer or former employers or other  
16 reasonably satisfactory evidence showing that the applicant has been actually engaged in  
17 electrical work as an apprentice in Rhode Island during those three (3) years. Class M  
18 journeyman electricians may qualify to take the journeyman "B" electrician examination  
19 upon registering as a fourth year apprentice and becoming employed by a properly licensed Class  
20 A electrical contractor for that period of time.

21 (d) Apprentice lightning protection installers are required to work a minimum of four  
22 thousand (4,000) hours over a period of time of not less than two (2) years to qualify for the  
23 lightning protection installer (LPI) examination. Provided, that the test applicant has possessed  
24 for at least two (2) years prior to the filing of the application a certificate of registration in full  
25 force and effect from the department of labor and training of Rhode Island specifying the person  
26 as an apprentice lightning protection installer, and the application of an applicant is accompanied  
27 by an affidavit or affidavits of his or her employer or former employers or other reasonably  
28 satisfactory evidence showing that the applicant has been actually engaged in lightning protection  
29 work as an apprentice during those two (2) years.

30 **5-6-29. Persons and work exempt.** -- (a) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to:

31 (1) The electrical work and equipment for the generation and primary distribution of  
32 electric current, or the secondary distribution system up to and including the meters, where that  
33 work and equipment is an integral part of the system owned and operated by an electric light and  
34 power company in rendering its authorized service; or to the electrical work and electrical

1 equipment employed in connection with the manufacture and distribution of gas, where that work  
2 and equipment is an integral part of the system owned and operated by a gas company in  
3 rendering its authorized service.

4 (2) The electrical work and equipment employed in connection with the operation of  
5 signals, or the transmission of intelligence, where that work and equipment is an integral part of  
6 the communication system owned and operated by a municipality or by a telegraph or telephone  
7 company, or any community antenna television system (CATV) subject to regulation under title  
8 39 by the division of public utilities or any subcontractor of a CATV system, including the work  
9 of a telephone company of installing, repairing or replacing all wiring on the load side of the last  
10 fused distribution point, and all of the emergency wiring installed, replaced, or repaired by a  
11 telephone company; or any community antenna television system (CATV) subject to regulation  
12 under title 39 by the division of public utilities or any subcontractor of such CATV system.

13 (3) The electrical work and equipment in mines, ships, railway rolling stock, or  
14 automotive equipment, or devices subject to the provisions of chapter 33 of title 23.

15 (4) Any work involved in the manufacture, test, or repair of electrical equipment in the  
16 manufacturer's plant, but not including any electrical wiring other than that required for testing  
17 purposes.

18 (b) This chapter does not apply to installations in suitable laboratories of exposed  
19 electrical wiring for experimental purposes only.

20 (c) This chapter does not forbid the installation of electrical work in a single-family or  
21 two-family dwelling on the immediate premises of the dwelling by the owner of the dwelling if  
22 living on, or about to live on, the premises.

23 (d) This chapter does not apply to any person who now holds or subsequently may hold a  
24 hoisting engineer's license issued by the state and who excavates for and installs underground  
25 conduits; provided, that hoisting engineers shall be prohibited from installing electrical wiring  
26 and/or making the service connection of any such electrical wires and/or cables. A city, town or  
27 such other authorized official shall issue a building permit to a licensed hoisting engineer for  
28 excavation and installation of such underground conduits upon submission of a completed  
29 application to the appropriate building official; provided, that a building permit will not be  
30 required if the work is performed for an electric distribution company. ~~nor does it apply to any  
31 person who now holds or may subsequently hold a license to operate a moving picture machine  
32 regardless of whether or not that license was granted by any town or city council in the state or by  
33 any person, board, or agency endowed with authority to issue that license.~~

34 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2007.

=====  
LC02749/SUB B  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO ELECTRICIANS

\*\*\*

- 1 This act would provide guidelines for the regulation of lightning protection contractors.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC02749/SUB B  
=====