

## HOUSE BILL NO. 511

INTRODUCED BY G. HENDRICK

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO ELECTRICIANS TO PROVIDE FOR  
5 A COMBINATION OF EMPLOYERS TO VERIFY QUALIFICATIONS OF AN APPLICANT FOR A JOURNEYMAN  
6 ELECTRICIAN'S LICENSE OR A RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICIAN'S LICENSE; AND AMENDING SECTION  
7 37-68-305, MCA."

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9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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11 **Section 1.** Section 37-68-305, MCA, is amended to read:  
12 **"37-68-305. Journeyman and residential electricians -- application -- qualifications -- contents of**  
13 **examination.** (1) An applicant for a journeyman electrician's license shall furnish written evidence of at least one  
14 of the following:  
15 (a) completion of an approved apprenticeship program in the electrical trade;  
16 (b) completion of an appropriate training program conducted by a bona fide union or trade association;  
17 (c) 8,000 hours of legally obtained practical experience in the wiring for, installing, and repairing of  
18 electrical apparatus and equipment for light, heat, and power; or  
19 (d) work in the electrical maintenance field for at least 20,000 hours, accompanied by written certification  
20 by the applicant's employer that the employer considers the applicant qualified to take the examination for which  
21 the applicant is applying and that the applicant has attained at least 20,000 hours in the electrical maintenance  
22 field while working for the employer. A minimum of 8,000 of these hours must be practical experience. For the  
23 purposes of this subsection (1)(d), an employer may be a contractor or a subcontractor that employs a master  
24 electrician or a journeyman electrician whose work with the applicant contributes to the 8,000 hours of the  
25 applicant's practical experience and who provides written certification that can be used in combination with the  
26 applicant's employer's certification as evidence of qualification to take the examination for which the applicant  
27 is applying. The board may not discriminate against an applicant who provides a combination of certifications of  
28 practical experience.  
29 (2) Applications for license and notice to the applicant must be made and given in the same manner as  
30 for master electricians' licenses. The examination for a journeyman's license must consist of at least 60 questions

1 designed to fairly test the applicant's knowledge and the applicant's technical application skills in the following  
2 subjects:

3 (a) the national electric code; and

4 (b) board rules and applicable laws under Title 37.

5 (3) An applicant for a residential electrician's license shall furnish written evidence of at least one of the  
6 following:

7 (a) completion of an approved residential electrician apprenticeship program;

8 (b) 4,000 hours of legally obtained practical experience in the wiring for, installing, and repairing of  
9 electrical apparatus and equipment for light, heat, and power in residential construction consisting of less than  
10 five living units in a single structure;

11 (c) completion of an appropriate training program conducted by a bona fide union or trade association;

12 or

13 (d) work in the electrical maintenance field for at least 20,000 hours, accompanied by written certification  
14 by the applicant's employer that the employer considers the applicant qualified to take the examination for which  
15 the applicant is applying and that the applicant has attained at least 20,000 hours in the electrical maintenance  
16 field while working for the employer. A minimum of 8,000 of these hours must be practical experience. For the  
17 purposes of this subsection (3)(d), an employer may be a contractor or a subcontractor that employs a master  
18 electrician or a journeyman electrician whose work with the applicant contributes to the 8,000 hours of the  
19 applicant's practical experience and who provides written certification that can be used in combination with the  
20 applicant's employer's certification as evidence of qualification to take the examination for which the applicant  
21 is applying. The board may not discriminate against an applicant who provides a combination of certifications of  
22 practical experience.

23 (4) Application for license and notice to the applicant must be made and given in the same manner as  
24 for master electricians' licenses. The examination for a residential electrician's license must consist of at least  
25 50 questions designed to fairly test the applicant's knowledge and the applicant's technical application skills in  
26 the following subjects:

27 (a) the national electric code; and

28 (b) board rules and applicable laws under Title 37.

29 (5) (a) For the purposes of this section "electrical maintenance" means the ordinary and customary  
30 installations in a plant or onsite in addition to modifications, additions, or repairs that are limited to replacing

1 ballasts, relamping, trouble-shooting motor controls, and replacing motors, breakers, or magnetic starters in a  
2 kind-for-kind manner. The term includes the connection of specific items of specialized equipment that can be  
3 directly connected to an existing branch circuit panel by means of factory-installed leads.

4 (b) The term does not include installation of a new circuit to operate the equipment described in  
5 subsection (5)(a) or installation that requires the size of supply conductors to be increased."

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