



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JAY ASH
SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Professional Licensure

1000 Washington Street • Boston • Massachusetts • 02118

JOHN C. CHAPMAN
UNDERSECRETARY OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND
BUSINESS REGULATION

CHARLES BORSTEL
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

Board of State Examiners of Electricians Celebrates 100 Years

On May 28, 2015, the Board of State Examiners of Electricians celebrated the 100th Anniversary of its creation. Established by an act of the state legislature on May 28, 1915, "[An Act Relative to the Registration of Persons, Firms and Corporations Designing to Install Wires or Apparatus for Electric Light, Heat Or Power Purposes](#)," the Board was created to protect the public through regulation of the practice of electrical work in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Originally composed of three members, including the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, the Fire Prevention Commissioner for the "Metropolitan District," and the Commissioner of Education, the Board issued only master and journeyman electrician licenses to individuals and electrical corporations. Both license types were valid for one year, and would be renewed for \$15 and \$.50, respectively. Today those licenses are valid for three years and are renewed at \$117 and \$78, respectively.

Today, the Board continues to pursue a mission of consumer protection mission through regulation of the practice of electrical work in Massachusetts in accordance with applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, as well as the implementation of the National Electric Code and Massachusetts Amendments. The size and composition of the Board has also grown to 11 members, and now includes several representatives of related state agencies, an array of licensees, a representative of the inspector of wires, and an unaffiliated member of the public.

The Board also now assists local wiring inspectors in mediating code disputes between licensees and wiring inspectors, and continues to prosecute those found to be working without a license or in violation of applicable statutes, regulations, and policies. Through the Board of Electricians' Appeals, the Board issues informal opinions and conducts formal hearings in matters of dispute, based upon decisions rendered by local wiring inspectors. The Board also performs fire investigations under the direction of the State Fire Marshal to determine whether an electrical issue contributed to the cause.

In addition to master and journeyman electrician licenses, also now licenses systems contractors and technicians, a practice begun in 1992. Individuals holding these license types install fire warning and security systems, as well as other types of low voltage systems. Currently, the Board licenses more than 37,000 individuals and businesses to engage in the practice of electrical and systems work. This includes approximately 8,700 master electricians, 25,640 journeyman electricians, and 2,630 systems contractors and technicians.



DPL is a regulatory agency within the [Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation](#), responsible for ensuring regulatory compliance and the integrity of the licensing process for more than 379,000 licensees in trades and professions under the jurisdiction of 28 boards of registration, including the Board of State Examiners of Electricians. Consumers are urged to visit DPL's website at www.mass.gov/dpl and select the "[Check a Professional's License](#)" link to determine whether a professional with whom they may wish to do business is licensed and in good standing.

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