AB 1707: Electricians: certification application, examination, and renewal.

Assemblymember Laurie Davies

IN BRIEF

AB 1707 would require the division to permit the application for certification and examination as an electrician to be submitted electronically and would also permit electricians to renew their certifications electronically. Furthermore, AB 1707 would permit an individual who fails the electrician certification examination to reregister for certification and to retake the examination again immediately at the next available appointment with the division.

THE ISSUE

California is currently facing a critical shortage of skilled electricians to meet its ambitious clean energy and housing goals. However, the current certification process is bogged down by three key issues:

Paper-Heavy Processing: Manual mailing of applications and checks leads to significant administrative delays and "lost in the mail" scenarios.

Renewal Lag: Electricians often face gaps in their legal ability to work while waiting for paper renewals to be processed.

Arbitrary Waiting Periods: Currently, applicants who fail the certification exam must wait a mandatory period (often 60 days) before retesting, regardless of their readiness or the availability of testing centers.

For too long, "blue-collar" administrative processes have been left in the dark ages while other sectors enjoyed digital convenience. We are asking young Californians to help us build a green future. If we want them to choose the trades, we cannot meet them with a mountain of paperwork and a "wait by the mailbox" mentality. This bill makes the profession accessible to a digital-native generation.

CURRENT LAW

Existing law requires the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement to maintain minimum standards for the competency and training of electricians through a system of testing and certification. Additionally, it requires the division to issue certification cards to electricians who have been certified and paid a fee, in accordance with certain procedures.

THE SOLUTION

AB 1707 aims to modernize California's electrician certification process by transitioning from archaic paper-based systems to a fully digital platform.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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