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LC004217/SUB A
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - ELECTRICIANS AND PLUMBERS

Introduced By: Senators Walaska, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: March 05, 2014

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

(Administration)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 5-6-8 and 5-6-11 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-6 entitled
2 "Electricians" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **5-6-8. Contractor's certificates/licenses.** -- (a) Electrical contractor's license. -
4 Certificate A shall be issued to any person, firm or corporation, qualified under this chapter,
5 engaging in, or about to engage in, the business of installing electrical wires, conduits, apparatus,
6 fixtures, fire alarm and safety communication systems and other electrical appliances, excluding
7 low voltage wiring for heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment. The certificate shall
8 specify the name of the person, firm, or corporation applying and the name of the person, who in
9 the case of a firm is one of its members, and in the case of a corporation, one of its officers,
10 passing the examination, by which he or she or it is authorized to enter upon or engage in
11 business as prescribed in the certificate. The holding of a Certificate A does not entitle the holder
12 individually to engage in or perform the actual work of installing electric wires, conduits, and
13 appliances as previously described in this chapter, but entitles him or her to conduct business as
14 an electrical contractor.

15 (b) Oil burner contractor's license. - A Certificate E shall be issued to any person, firm,
16 or corporation qualified under this chapter, and engaged in, or about to engage in, the business of
17 an oil burner contractor, as defined in section 5-6-1. The certificate shall specify the name of the
18 person, firm, or corporation applying and the name of the person who, in the case of a firm is one
19 of its members, and in the case of a corporation one of its officers, passing the examination, by

1 which he or she or it is authorized to enter upon or engage in business as prescribed in the
2 certificate. The holding of a Certificate E does not entitle the holder individually to engage in or
3 perform any work on, or in connection with electric wires, conduits, and appliances as previously
4 described in this chapter, but entitles the holder to contract to do that work to the extent permitted
5 in this chapter, through the employment of oil burnerpersons holding a Certificate F. An oil
6 burner contractor who is the holder of a Certificate A is not required to obtain a Certificate E.

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

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

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

33 (f) Renewable energy professional. A Certificate REP shall be issued to any person, firm
34 or corporation, qualified under this chapter, engaged in or about to engage in the business of

1 installing eligible renewable energy technologies as defined in § 39-26-5. All renewable energy
2 electrical work, including installing, connecting, maintaining, servicing and testing all electrical
3 wires, conduits and apparatus; mounting the modules to the mounting racks; mounting the
4 inverters; and tying the inverters into the main electrical panels shall be done by a licensed
5 electrician. Ancillary non-electrical renewable energy work, such as advertising services;
6 distribution of materials to final location of installation including photovoltaic modules to the
7 mounting racks; and installing the ground and rooftop support brackets and ballast for rack
8 systems, may be done by any person, firm or corporation holding an REP Certificate. The REP
9 Certificate shall specify the name of the person, firm, or corporation applying and the name of the
10 person, who in the case of a firm is one of its members, and in the case of a corporation, one of its
11 officers, meeting the requisite education and experience as established in § 5-6-11, by which he
12 or she or it is authorized to enter upon or engage in business as prescribed in the certificate. The
13 holding of a Certificate REP entitles the holder to contract to do that work to the extent permitted
14 in this chapter.

15 The installation, mechanical fastening and conjoining of listed solar sheathing systems
16 that are ten kilowatts(10 kw) or less on residential structures as defined by the Rhode Island one
17 and two (2) family dwelling code may be performed by a registered contractor that has been
18 issued a renewable energy professional certificate (REPC) as defined in § 5-6-11(e) and above
19 referenced. However, said residential solar sheathing system shall be connected to the electrical
20 system from the roof edge and energized by a Rhode Island licensed electrician working in
21 compliance with chapter 6 of title 5. Additionally, the residential solar sheathing systems noted
22 must be listed and labeled by UL or other recognized electrical device certification organization,
23 identified and acceptable by the authority having jurisdiction.

24 **5-6-11. ~~Certificate/license of oil burnerperson, fire alarm installer, electrical sign~~**
25 **~~installers, and lightning protection installer~~ Certificate/license of oil burnerperson, fire**
26 **alarm installer, electrical sign installers, lightning protection installers and renewable**
27 **energy professionals. --** (a) Oil burnerperson's license. - A Certificate F shall be granted to any
28 person who has passed an examination before the division of professional regulation. The
29 certificate shall specify the name of the person authorized to work on, and repair electric wiring
30 and equipment located in or on oil burners burning fuel oil no heavier than No. 2, and other
31 equipment serviced by oil burner contractors, to the extent only as is necessary to service,
32 maintain and repair those oil burners and equipment. The license shall limit the holder of a
33 Certificate F to do work on electric wiring or equipment located between the meter and those oil
34 burners and equipment, but in no event to do any electrical work on oil burners burning No. 3, 4,

1 5, or 6 fuel oil.

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

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

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

14 [\(e\) Renewable energy professional's certificate. The Rhode Island department of labor](#)
15 [and training shall issue a Certificate of Competency in the Design and Installation of Renewable](#)
16 [Energy Systems to any person, firm, or corporation that has received a certification from a](#)
17 [nationally recognized, or equivalent, renewable energy certification training program and has](#)
18 [demonstrated proof of such certification to the Rhode Island office of energy resources.](#)

19 SECTION 2. Section 5-20-35 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-20 entitled "Plumbers
20 and Irrigators" is hereby amended to read as follows:

21 **5-20-35. Persons and acts exempt -- Issuance of licenses in special cases.** -- (a) The
22 provisions of this chapter do not apply to the installation of automatic sprinkler systems or other
23 fire protection appliances in this state and do not apply to employees of public utilities (publicly
24 or privately owned); provided, that any resident of Rhode Island not licensed, as provided in this
25 chapter, desiring a license as a master plumber or journeyman plumber who on or before
26 August 14, 1966, presents to the department of labor and training of the state reasonably
27 satisfactory evidence, in writing, that he or she was actively engaged in the business of plumbing
28 as a master plumber or working as a journeyman plumber for a master plumber in any city or
29 town for five (5) years prior to May 16, 1966, and that he or she is at the time of presenting that
30 evidence to the department of labor and training operating in any city or town as a master
31 plumber or working as journeyman plumber, shall, upon payment of a fee of five dollars
32 (\$5.00) in the case of a master plumber or one dollar (\$1.00) in the case of a journeyman
33 plumber, have issued to him or her by the department of labor and training a certificate of license
34 as a master plumber or a journeyman plumber without an additional application, fee, or other

1 condition precedent. Farms, golf courses, and nurseries performing irrigation work on their
2 premises only shall not be required to be licensed under the chapter.

3 (b) Solar thermal professional. A Certificate REPC shall be issued to any person, firm, or
4 corporation, qualified under this chapter, engaged in or about to engage in the business of
5 installing solar thermal technologies. Solar thermal plumbing or mechanical work must be
6 performed by persons, firms or corporations properly licensed under chapter 20 of title 5 or
7 chapter 27 of title 28. Certificate REPC holders may advertise and bid for solar thermal work
8 provided that they contract with persons, firms or corporations that are properly licensed under
9 chapter 20 of title 5 or chapter 27 of title 28 to perform all related plumbing or mechanical work.
10 The REPC Certificate shall specify the name of the person, firm, or corporation applying and the
11 name of the person, who, in the case of a firm, is one of its members, and in the case of a
12 corporation, one of its officers, passing the examination, by which he or she or it is authorized to
13 enter upon or engage in business as prescribed in the certificate.

14 (c) Solar thermal professional's certificate. The Rhode Island department of labor and
15 training shall issue a Certificate of Competency in the Design and Installation of Solar Thermal
16 Systems to any person, firm, or corporation that has received a certification from a nationally
17 recognized, or equivalent, renewable energy certification training program and has demonstrated
18 proof of such certification to the Rhode Island office of energy resources.

19 ~~(b)~~(d) Nothing in this or any other chapter of the general laws shall prohibit
20 municipalities or water districts from using employees, or engaging the services of licensed
21 plumbers or other contractors and/or service providers that meet certain requirements determined
22 by the municipality or water district, for the purpose of replacing water meters or meter reading
23 devices.

24 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - ELECTRICIANS AND PLUMBERS

1 This act would make adjustments to the electrical, plumbing or mechanical licensing
2 rules for renewable energy installations as well as the mode of work the holder of a Certificate of
3 Competency in solar thermal installations can do. It would also provide that a REC Certificate be
4 issued to any qualifying person, firm, or corporation that engages in the business of solar thermal
5 installations.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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