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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 contractor. - A Certificate REC 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 under § 39-26-5. All renewable
2 energy electrical work, including installing the grounding wires; connecting all wires; mounting
3 the modules to the mounting racks; mounting the inverters; and tying the inverters into the main
4 electrical panels shall be done by a licensed electrician. Ancillary non-electrical renewable energy
5 work, such as advertising services; carrying photovoltaic modules to the mounting racks; and
6 installing the ground and rooftop mounting rack systems, may be done by any person, firm, or
7 corporation holding an REC Certificate. The REC Certificate shall specify the name of the
8 person, firm, or corporation applying and the name of the person, who, in the case of a firm, is
9 one of its members, and in the case of a corporation, one of its officers, meeting the requisite
10 education and experience as established in § 5-6-11, by which he or she or it is authorized to enter
11 upon or engage in business as prescribed in the certificate. The holding of a Certificate REC
12 entitles the holder to contract to do that work to the extent permitted in this chapter.

13 ~~**5-6-11. Certificate/license of oil burnerperson, fire alarm installer, electrical sign**~~
14 ~~**installers, and lightning protection installer. -- Certificate/license of oil burnerperson, fire**~~
15 ~~**alarm installer, electrical sign installers, lightning protection installers, and renewable**~~
16 ~~**energy contractors. --**~~ (a) Oil burnerperson's license. - A Certificate F shall be granted to any
17 person who has passed an examination before the division of professional regulation. The
18 certificate shall specify the name of the person authorized to work on, and repair electric wiring
19 and equipment located in or on oil burners burning fuel oil no heavier than No. 2, and other
20 equipment serviced by oil burner contractors, to the extent only as is necessary to service,
21 maintain and repair those oil burners and equipment. The license shall limit the holder of a
22 Certificate F to do work on electric wiring or equipment located between the meter and those oil
23 burners and equipment, but in no event to do any electrical work on oil burners burning No. 3, 4,
24 5, or 6 fuel oil.

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

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

33 (d) Lightning protection installer's license. - A Certificate LPI shall be granted to any
34 person who has passed an examination before the division of professional regulations. The

1 certificate shall specify the name of the person authorized to install, maintain, work on, and repair
2 lightning protection systems as defined in section 5-6-1.

3 (e) Renewable energy contractor's certificate. – The Rhode Island office of energy
4 resources in coordination with the Rhode Island department of labor and training shall issue a
5 Certificate of Competency in the Design and Installation of Renewable Energy Systems to any
6 person, firm, or corporation that has received a certification from a nationally recognized, or
7 equivalent, renewable energy certification training program.

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

10 **5-20-35. Persons and acts exempt -- Issuance of licenses in special cases.** -- (a) The
11 provisions of this chapter do not apply to the installation of automatic sprinkler systems or other
12 fire protection appliances in this state and do not apply to employees of public utilities (publicly
13 or privately owned); provided, that any resident of Rhode Island not licensed, as provided in this
14 chapter, desiring a license as a master plumber or journeyman plumber who on or before
15 August 14, 1966, presents to the department of labor and training of the state reasonably
16 satisfactory evidence, in writing, that he or she was actively engaged in the business of plumbing
17 as a master plumber or working as a journeyman plumber for a master plumber in any city or
18 town for five (5) years prior to May 16, 1966, and that he or she is at the time of presenting that
19 evidence to the department of labor and training operating in any city or town as a master
20 plumber or working as journeyman plumber, shall, upon payment of a fee of five dollars
21 (\$5.00) in the case of a master plumber or one dollar (\$1.00) in the case of a journeyman
22 plumber, have issued to him or her by the department of labor and training a certificate of license
23 as a master plumber or a journeyman plumber without an additional application, fee, or other
24 condition precedent. Farms, golf courses, and nurseries performing irrigation work on their
25 premises only shall not be required to be licensed under the chapter.

26 (b) Solar thermal contractor. - A Certificate REC shall be issued to any person, firm, or
27 corporation, qualified under this chapter, engaged in or about to engage in the business of
28 installing solar thermal installations. All solar thermal plumbing work, including the installation
29 of fittings, fixtures, and connections must be performed by persons, firms, or corporations
30 properly licensed under chapter 5-20. Ancillary non-plumbing solar thermal work, including
31 advertising services; carrying evacuated solar thermal tubes or solar collectors to the mounting
32 racks; and mounting evacuated solar thermal tubes or solar collectors to the mounting racks, may
33 be done by any person, firm, or corporation holding a REC Certificate. The REC Certificate shall
34 specify the name of the person, firm, or corporation applying and the name of the person, who, in

1 the case of a firm, is one of its members, and in the case of a corporation, one of its officers,
2 passing the examination, by which he or she or it is authorized to enter upon or engage in
3 business as prescribed in the certificate. The holding of a REC Certificate entitles the holder to
4 contract to do that work to the extent permitted in this chapter.

5 (c) Solar thermal contractor's certificate. The Rhode Island office of energy resources in
6 coordination with the Rhode Island department of labor and training shall issue a Certificate of
7 Competency in the Design and Installation of Solar Thermal Systems to any person, firm, or
8 corporation that has received a certification from a nationally recognized, or equivalent,
9 renewable energy certification training program.

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

15 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 and plumbing licensing rules for
2 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 engages in the business of solar thermal
5 installations.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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