

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote: 3 - 0 - 2
Yeas: George L., Monnes Anderson, Metsger
Nays: 0
Exc.: Deckert, Starr
Prepared By: Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows the Department of Consumer and Business Services, in consultation with the Electrical and Elevator Board, to adopt rules regarding the use of written requests by licensed supervising electricians as authority to energize electrical installations without prior inspection.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Practices and policies vary under current law
- Authority most often used during emergency repairs
- Need for standards

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Current statute establishes that an electrical contractor, through his or her supervising electrician, can order an electric utility to energize a service for an electrical installation when there is no inspection. This frequently occurs when there is a service change on someone's house, when restoring electricity after a storm, or in a rural area when the installation needs to be re-energized but there is no time for an inspection. In these cases, the licensed supervising electrician performs the electrical installation and notifies the utility and the municipality about the installation, laying the groundwork for an inspection to take place. However, there are no rules or statutes which regulate this practice, resulting in inconsistencies from one utility to another with regard to temporarily waiving the inspection requirement or inspecting the system after it is re-energized.

House Bill 2475-A establishes the groundwork for developing a consistent method of handling these situations by giving the Department of Consumer and Business Services the authority to adopt rules regulating the authority of a licensed supervising electrician in energizing an electrical installation.