

The problems inherent in the laws governing electricians could not be resolved in a routine nonsubstantive revision, because of the numerous gaps, inconsistencies, and ambiguities in those laws.

Therefore, a Joint Subcommittee of the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee was appointed to consider the substantive problems in the electricians law and to develop substantive legislation to address those problems.

The Joint Subcommittee undertook to address those issues by careful review of a draft revision of the existing laws in which were noted, e.g., provisions that were inconsistent either with other laws relating to electricians or to business occupations generally, provisions that were obsolete, provisions that were impracticable to apply, and provisions that were at variance with practice in the industry. The absence of provisions that generally appear in laws governing business occupations also was noted.

It is a precept that similar provisions should be stated in the same way every time. This is particularly true as to provisions that relate to licensing. To that end, therefore, provisions of the existing law that were retained and new provisions that were added have been conformed to the language and organization of revised articles.

Former Art. 56, § 534A, which prohibited a person engaging in business as a master electrician without a State license, is transferred to the Session Laws. The Attorney General had opined that former § 534A should not be enforced since the General Assembly's power to adopt local legislation applicable to only 1 home rule county is restricted. Under § 2-301 of this title, every county must adopt local legislation or adhere to the State requirements and, thus, former § 534A will be unnecessary. It is preserved in the Session Laws, however, until § 2-301 of this title becomes effective.

The first and second sentences of former Art. 56, § 538(a) and (b), which provided for licensees on January 1, 1985, are transferred to the Session Laws, to ensure that licenses held under those sentences are not affected by this Act.

Article 25 - County Commissioners

3.

(a) (1) The county commissioners of each county in this State, in addition to, but not in substitution of, the powers which have been or may be granted them, have the following express powers.